



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2022 with funding from
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761114679392>

133

CA24N

CC

- F56

Report #39



Ontario

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



March 1984

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #39

MARCH 1984

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

March 1984

ISSN 0228 - 0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES ...	4
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	7
APPENDICES	10

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto increased by 7.3 per cent during the quarter December 1, 1983 to March 1, 1984. Prices increased by 10.0 per cent from a year earlier.

Monthly comparisons show that the total price of 72 food items increased by 4.7 per cent between December, 1983 and January, 1984. Prices remained stable between January and February and increased by 2.5 per cent between February and March.

During the quarter prices decreased in the following categories: canned vegetables (9.4 per cent), other groceries (1.9 per cent), lamb (9.8 per cent) and poultry (2.6 per cent). These decreases were largely due to specials which were featured during the March monitoring.

All other categories registered increases some of which were related to price movements from December specials.

The 2.4 per cent increase in the 'dairy and eggs' category reflected increases in the price of milk and milk products such as butter and cheese. These followed the Ontario Milk Marketing Board's increase of 6.5 per cent in the price paid to farmers for fluid milk, effective January 16. The increases also reflected upward adjustments in the target returns for industrial milk and cream.

Increases of 6.8 per cent in the 'cereal and bread' category and 7.3 per cent in the 'beverages' category were largely due to the lifting of December specials.

The 'fresh fruit and vegetable' category registered the largest increase of 29.6 per cent, largely due to the freeze in Florida and Texas which damaged crops and affected the supplies and price of imports. The decline in local storage stocks was another contributing factor.

The price of canned fruits and juices also came under the influence of the factors affecting fresh fruits and vegetables. The price of canned fruits increased by 4.1 per cent and canned juices by 5.5 per cent.

The 'dry groceries' and 'other groceries' categories increased largely in response to the lifting of December specials on some items and increases in the regular price of others.

The 4.6 per cent increase in the 'oils and fats' category was largely due to the effects of higher oil seed prices.

The 'jams and syrups' category increased by 6.7 per cent mainly as a result of increases in the price of honey and jam.

The 'beef' category registered an increase of 16.1 per cent over the quarter largely in response to the lifting of December specials. Steer price movements in the U.S., due to adverse weather conditions, also influenced retail beef prices in the North American market. The demand for beef is expected to increase with the coming of the barbecue season. This is expected to put upward pressure on retail beef prices.

The 'pork' price increase of 11.9 per cent was mainly due to reduced supplies.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	Number of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison			Month to Month Comparison			Quarterly Comparison Dec. 1/83 to March 1/84 % Change
		Dec. 2/82 to Dec. 1/83 % Change	Dec. 2/82 to Dec. 1/83 % Change	March 3/83 to March 1/84 % Change	Dec. 1/83 to Jan. 4/84 % Change	Jan. 4/84 to Feb. 2/84 % Change	Feb. 2/84 to March 1/84 % Change	
Dairy and Eggs	5	7.1		8.4	- 0.1	1.8	0.7	2.4
Cereals and Bread	7	-0.5		6.8	6.4	- 0.4	4.6	6.8
Beverages	5	3.8		6.3	6.4	- 0.2	1.0	7.3
Canned Fruits and Vegetables								
Canned Fruits	2	7.7		8.6	4.1	- 7.9	8.6	4.1
Canned Vegetables	4	1.1		- 7.4	3.1	- 0.7	-11.5	- 9.4
Canned Juices	4	- 0.6		4.0	8.7	- 3.3	0.3	5.5
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	11.5		43.4	13.4	12.5	1.6	29.6
Dry Groceries	7	7.3		15.3	- 0.4	1.2	4.6	5.4
Oils and Fats	4	7.2		10.6	4.6	- 2.5	2.6	4.6
Jams and Syrups	3	4.8		10.5	4.4	0.3	1.9	6.7
Other Groceries	6	1.8		3.7	- 3.7	3.8	- 1.8	- 1.9
Meats								
Beef	6	3.2		14.1	13.2	- 3.5	6.2	16.1
Lamb (frozen)	1	1.1		-11.2	1.5	-27.1	21.9	- 9.8
Pork	5	- 8.3		0.5	5.1	1.3	4.6	11.4
Poultry	3	17.9		14.6	- 2.2	2.4	- 2.6	- 2.4
Total	72	3.7		10.0	4.7	0.0	2.5	7.3

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND
36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

The total price of the 72 food items monitored on March 1, 1984 were lower than Toronto in seven Southern Ontario communities. The spread remained unchanged in one community and widened in six others.

Northwestern Ontario

Prices were lower than Toronto in seven Northwestern Ontario communities. The spread widened in seven communities and narrowed in four others often reflecting the fact that total prices improved in relation to Toronto.

Northeastern Ontario

Total prices were lower than Toronto in eleven Northeastern Ontario communities. The differential narrowed in eight communities and widened in ten others sometimes reflecting improvements in relation to Toronto.

A comparison of prices in Toronto and all other communities can be found in Table 2.

Table 2a gives the average price of easily comparable items in 37 Ontario communities as of March 1, 1984.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	Sept. 1/83 % Difference from Toronto	Dec. 1/83 % Difference from Toronto	March 1/83 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-0.6	0.1	-4.4
Kingston	-2.8	0.0	-3.0
London	0.2	-1.3	-1.3
Ottawa	-7.0	-4.6	-7.6
Owen Sound	-6.1	-2.7	-6.4
Peterborough	-2.4	-0.7	-2.5
Windsor	-2.1	-0.6	-3.3
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	2.3	3.0	-3.3
Dryden	-1.4	0.6	-3.0
Fort Frances	-4.6	-7.5	-12.0
Geraldton	1.9	1.5	-5.4
Ignace	2.1	0.6	-0.9
Kenora	-1.4	-1.5	-5.3
Marathon	5.9	5.3	1.6
Rainy River	4.2	3.2	3.0
Red Lake	2.6	4.7	1.0
Sioux Lookout	4.7	5.7	0.5
Thunder Bay	-2.4	-2.0*	-9.0*
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	-0.8	3.0	0.3
Chapleau	2.9	8.2**	1.9**
Cochrane	1.8	0.6	-0.8
Elliot Lake	-0.2	1.3	-2.2
Espanola	-1.0*	-4.1*	-5.0*
Hearst	2.8	2.8	-0.9
Iroquois Falls	-1.7	-2.1	-4.4
Kapuskasing	2.1	2.6	1.2
Kirkland Lake	-1.3	-0.2	-0.5
Manitoulin Island	6.8	6.2	3.7
Moosonee	9.3	11.4	9.1
New Liskeard	0.2	1.8	-1.4
North Bay	-2.6	0.6	-3.4
Sault Ste. Marie	-1.5	0.0	0.4
Sturgeon Falls	1.1	3.7	0.1
Sudbury	-7.7	-5.8	-7.4
Timmins	-0.3	1.4	-1.9
Wawa	0.7	1.1	-3.4

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

*Price changes are based on a 2-store average due to the recent closure of a third store originally included in survey.

**Price changes relate to one store only due to the recent closure of a second store originally monitored.

Table 2a: 3-Store Average* of Easily Comparable Food Items in 37 Ontario Communities, March 1, 1984

Community	Butter		Milk		Dry Cereal		Flour		Coffee		Dollars		Tomato Juice	Bananas	Sugar	Sirloin Steak	Whole Chicken
	1 lb.	2%	4 L.	1 doz.	350 g.	3.5 kg.	3.5 kg.	3.5 kg.	10 oz.	7 oz.	7 oz.	48 oz.		1 lb.	3 kg.	1 lb.	1 lb.
Toronto	2.47		3.49	1.31S	1.37		4.80		6.45S	0.59S		1.28S		0.49	1.99	4.55	1.72
S. ONTARIO																	
Hamilton	2.47		2.96S	1.30S	1.31		4.15S		6.62S	0.55S		1.24S		0.49	1.79S	4.32	1.65
Kingston	2.31S	3.36	1.44	1.43	1.43		3.93S		7.19	0.59		1.18S		0.55	1.99	4.52	1.74
London	2.32S	2.99S	1.25S	1.37	1.37		4.71		7.19	0.66		1.24S		0.49	1.99S	4.43	1.72
Ottawa	2.50	3.29	1.36	1.26	1.26		4.31S		5.21	0.66		1.40S		0.49	1.92	4.39	1.28
Owen Sound	2.28S	1.99S	1.29	1.37	1.37		3.72S		6.69	0.62S		1.13S		0.57	1.72	3.87	1.75
Peterborough	2.43	2.89S	1.28	1.38	1.38		4.40		6.99	0.53S		1.16S		0.54	1.99	4.50	1.50S
Windsor	2.49	2.79S	1.30S	1.36	1.36		4.81		6.79	0.67		1.37S		0.40	1.99	4.59	1.75
N.W. ONTARIO																	
Atikokan	2.45		3.89	1.52	1.30		4.40		7.24	0.69		1.74		0.54	2.11	4.89	1.77
Dryden	2.38	4.11	1.37	1.29	1.29		4.55		6.99	0.68		1.51		0.47	1.79	4.70	1.35
Fort Frances	2.40	3.82	1.27	1.54	1.54		4.05		5.99S	0.44S		0.98S		0.49	1.95	4.25	1.17
Geraldton	2.51	4.02	1.64	1.32	1.32		4.60		6.85	0.69		1.51		0.55	2.19	3.99	1.42
Ignace	2.48	4.31	1.44	1.32	1.32		4.74		6.95	0.68		1.64		0.41S	1.84	4.03S	1.39
Kenora	2.38S	3.95	1.30S	1.24	1.24		4.34		7.27	0.55S		1.56		0.37S	1.79S	4.72	1.77
Marathon	2.57	3.99	1.69	1.19S	1.19S		4.69		7.54	0.73		1.54		0.47	1.99	4.91	1.73
Rainy River	2.52	4.32	1.56	1.33	1.33		4.78		7.35	0.69		1.87		0.52	1.85	4.16	1.86
Red Lake	2.51	4.05	1.52	1.31	1.31		4.59		7.42	0.69		1.41S		0.47	1.77	4.60	1.69
Sioux Lookout	2.41	4.10	1.55	1.29	1.29		4.84		7.64	0.69		1.61		0.51S	1.63S	4.75	1.55
Thunder Bay	2.24S	3.03S	1.34	1.29	1.29		3.72		6.99	0.69		1.59		0.42	1.46S	3.93S	1.59
N.E. ONTARIO																	
Blind River	2.42		3.49	1.51	1.40		4.77		5.99S	0.69		1.59		0.39S	1.99	3.99	1.84
Chapleau	2.52	4.40	1.45	1.45	1.45		4.61		7.89	0.75		1.67		0.64	1.99	4.60	1.59
Cochrane	2.43	3.99	1.48	1.29	1.29		4.69		6.79S	0.67		1.63		0.47	1.49S	4.49	1.69
Elliot Lake	2.44	3.49	1.40	1.41	1.41		4.82		7.26	0.66		1.66		0.48	1.99	4.69	1.63
Espanola	2.43	3.69	1.29	1.36	1.36		4.77		6.59S	0.64		1.24		0.49	1.94	4.64	1.59
Hearst	2.47	3.49	1.59	1.36	1.36		4.63		7.39	0.69		1.57		0.63	1.49S	4.59	1.92
Iroquois Falls	2.35	4.11	1.40S	1.40	1.40		4.49		6.97	0.58		1.49		0.52	1.92	4.03	1.18
Kapuskasing	2.47	3.85	1.50	1.34	1.34		4.91		7.03	0.68		1.36		0.69	1.97	4.74	1.91
Kirkland Lake	2.52	4.49	1.40	1.49	1.49		4.81		7.13	0.67		1.45S		0.59S	1.99	4.62	2.09
Manitoulin Island	2.54	4.17	1.61	1.41	1.41		4.75		7.74	0.77		1.59		0.59	2.19	4.39	1.29
Moosonee	2.68	4.49	1.74S	1.50	1.50		4.47		7.93	0.63S		1.87		0.64	2.30	4.54	1.68
New Liskeard	2.49	3.80	1.47	1.37	1.37		4.83		6.61S	0.65S		1.42S		0.44	1.89	4.62	1.69
North Bay	2.50	3.49	1.46	1.38	1.38		4.89		6.91S	0.66S		1.69		0.52S	1.99	4.28	1.64
Sault Ste. Marie	2.54	4.09	1.43	1.41	1.41		4.89		7.77	0.73		1.69		0.49S	2.14	4.64	1.59
Sturgeon Falls	2.49	3.80	1.48	1.37	1.37		4.86		7.21	0.66S		1.43		0.54	1.99	4.54	1.64
Sudbury	2.36	2.99	1.19S	1.33	1.33		4.00		6.49S	0.54		1.17		0.37S	1.89	4.55	1.62
Timmins	2.44	3.49	1.28S	1.40	1.40		4.82		7.23	0.67S		1.50		0.56S	1.82S	4.59	1.65
Wawa	2.37	4.67	1.46	1.42	1.42		3.75S		7.66	0.44S		1.42S		0.66	1.84S	4.44	1.39

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

* In some communities only 2 stores are monitored and the price reflects a 2-store average.

S = Special sale

Note: All sizes and product brands are consistent for all locations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM PREVIOUS QUARTERS FOR ALL CENTRES

Between December 1, 1983 and March 1, 1984 prices increased in 36 of the 37 Ontario communities. Increases ranged from 0.1 per cent in Geraldton to 7.7 per cent in Sault Ste. Marie. Thunder Bay registered a decrease of 0.4 per cent over the period.

Increases in the price of fresh fruits and vegetables contributed significantly to price increases in all communities. However, items in other food groups such as oils and fats, cereals and bread, beef, other groceries, jams and syrups also showed significant increases in some communities. The lamb and poultry categories registered price decreases in many communities.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are presented in Table 3.

The percentage changes by category for the period December 1, 1983 to March 1, 1984 are available for all centres in Table 3a.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Quarters
for All Centres

Community	June 2/83 to Sept. 1/83 % Difference	Sept. 1/83 to Dec. 1/83 % Difference	Dec. 1/83 to Mar. 1/84 % Difference
Toronto	2.5	-0.6	7.3
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	2.0	0.2	2.4
Kingston	-0.1	2.3	4.1
London	2.8	-2.0	7.5
Ottawa	0.4	1.9	3.9
Owen Sound	-0.7	3.0	3.1
Peterborough	0.6	1.2	5.4
Windsor	1.1	1.0	4.4
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	0.3	0.1	0.8
Dryden	-1.1	0.7	3.5
Fort Frances	-8.0	-3.5	2.0
Geraldton	0.0	-1.0	0.1
Ignace	1.0	-2.1	5.7
Kenora	-2.0	-0.7	3.1
Marathon	2.9	-1.1	3.5
Rainy River	-0.7	-1.5	7.1
Red Lake	-1.5	1.5	3.5
Sioux Lookout	-0.4	0.4	2.0
Thunder Bay	1.6	-0.1*	-0.4*
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	0.0	3.2	4.6
Chapleau	0.6	4.5**	1.1**
Cochrane	1.9	-1.7	5.8
Elliot Lake	-1.4	1.0	3.5
Espanola	0.8*	-3.7*	6.4*
Hearst	1.9	-0.6	3.4
Iroquois Falls	-0.7	-0.9	4.7
Kapuskasing	3.0	-0.1	6.8
Kirkland Lake	1.5	0.6	6.9
Manitoulin Island	1.7	-1.2	4.8
Moosonee	-0.1	1.3	5.1
New Liskeard	0.2	1.0	3.9
North Bay	-0.9	2.7	3.0
Sault Ste. Marie	-2.1	0.9	7.7
Sturgeon Falls	2.6	2.0	3.5
Sudbury	1.7	1.4	5.5
Timmins	-0.7	1.2	3.7
Wawa	0.7	-0.2	2.5

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

*Price changes are based on a 2-store average due to the recent closure of a third store originally included in survey.

**Price changes relate to one store only due to the recent closure of a second store originally monitored.

Community	% Change	Dairy & Eggs	Cereals & Bread	Beverages	Canned Fruits, Vegetables & Juices	Fresh Fruit & Veg.	Dry Groceries	Oils & Fats	Jams & Syrups	Other Groceries	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
Toronto	7.3	2.4	6.8	7.3	1.5	29.6	5.4	4.6	6.7	-1.9	16.1	-9.8	11.4	-2.4	9.5
S. ONTARIO															
Hamilton	2.4	-0.9	1.4	-6.6	-2.2	24.2	1.9	-2.4	2.2	-1.0	8.7	-11.6	7.9	3.1	6.1
Kingston	4.1	1.6	6.0	4.4	-1.3	14.1	-4.3	8.2	0.6	-0.8	14.6	-9.6	9.5	-8.2	7.4
London	7.5	1.8	12.4	5.9	5.4	33.0	0.0	2.6	4.1	2.6	15.0	12.7	3.8	0.4	8.6
Ottawa	3.9	12.9	0.4	1.9	-2.2	30.5	2.2	12.1	3.6	0.2	6.8	6.7	-10.2	-16.4	-2.7
Owen Sound	3.1	1.0	-0.5	5.7	0.5	21.8	-1.3	-4.4	3.8	-8.1	6.0	-11.9	10.5	7.1	6.4
Peterborough	5.4	-2.2	-1.0	7.2	1.9	25.6	2.5	4.5	5.4	6.3	11.0	-3.3	8.9	-6.2	6.5
Windsor	4.4	-1.5	3.3	4.1	0.9	27.2	-2.7	10.3	2.6	-0.1	11.4	7.1	-2.9	6.4	5.1
N.W. ONTARIO															
Atikokan	0.8	1.2	-1.8	-1.4	7.9	20.3	-11.6	8.2	1.3	1.3	-3.7	13.2	-5.2	1.4	-2.2
Dryden	3.5	2.9	1.6	8.4	6.4	14.4	3.6	2.5	5.7	-5.9	4.0	-5.7	-1.1	-3.6	0.1
Fort Frances	2.0	-11.1	10.8	-6.6	-3.1	20.8	6.7	25.2	7.4	25.5	2.2	0.0	-11.0	-31.2	-7.6
Geraldton	0.1	-12.1	3.1	5.8	-1.0	33.6	-6.4	-10.4	-6.3	13.1	7.4	-7.2	-12.7	-5.7	-2.6
Ignace	5.7	1.2	4.7	-2.6	5.5	44.1	6.6	2.0	4.9	4.0	11.7	23.8	-6.9	-1.3	3.8
Kenora	3.1	3.3	4.4	-1.7	0.8	16.7	0.7	5.3	1.6	-2.8	5.2	-5.1	-1.3	19.7	4.1
Marathon	3.5	1.4	2.6	-0.9	5.2	20.5	8.9	1.3	-3.6	3.8	3.7	4.6	-3.7	3.4	1.1
Rainy River	7.1	4.3	3.7	11.5	2.4	24.6	0.8	12.4	-13.1	0.1	6.8	-5.4	12.5	33.4	11.5
Red Lake	3.5	1.2	2.8	6.6	14.8	19.4	11.7	1.6	-4.5	4.7	7.3	-19.0	-15.8	2.1	-4.5
Stoux Lookout	2.0	1.2	6.3	-2.0	6.2	20.4	-7.8	2.2	0.3	0.1	5.4	-14.7	-1.3	4.1	1.1
Thunder Bay	-0.4	4.5	1.7	10.1	-4.7	17.8	-3.5	8.5	-1.8	-9.9	-9.9	-23.0	-4.2	-5.8	-8.6
N.E. ONTARIO															
Blind River	4.6	-6.7	-2.0	-5.2	-0.6	14.4	8.0	17.0	2.7	11.7	22.1	-7.3	11.1	-11.3	10.8
Chapleau	1.1	9.8	5.4	0.5	1.0	15.3	-3.4	-13.7	7.0	11.7	-16.7	8.3	-7.3	20.1	-6.9
Cochrane	5.8	0.6	-0.8	0.9	4.1	19.2	-1.1	5.9	6.2	12.1	9.4	-2.1	14.0	16.8	10.9
Elliot Lake	3.5	-0.2	6.2	2.8	6.5	15.1	8.0	6.1	4.8	1.1	-3.6	-5.9	3.4	-8.1	-1.9
Espanola	6.4	9.4	8.6	5.0	3.5	7.1	7.4	5.9	1.3	6.3	9.7	4.1	10.0	-0.9	6.2
Hearst	3.4	-6.6	6.6	2.8	1.7	28.7	-0.4	2.2	1.1	3.4	0.5	-15.6	12.7	-9.8	2.7
Iroquois Falls	4.7	1.7	4.8	12.2	1.4	21.9	-3.7	0.2	-1.8	0.4	6.7	-9.1	10.4	0.2	5.7
Kapuskasing	6.8	12.3	11.6	9.5	8.4	31.4	1.0	8.9	0.7	2.7	-2.5	5.2	-1.2	-2.0	-1.4
Kirkland Lake	6.9	4.3	12.9	0.5	-1.5	25.6	13.2	4.8	4.2	1.2	7.3	-22.5	16.8	-0.4	6.9
Manitoulin Island	4.8	8.6	1.1	10.7	3.7	14.8	2.2	18.9	2.5	3.3	1.4	0.0	-3.3	9.1	-1.8
Moosonee	5.1	0.9	1.1	3.5	4.1	18.7	9.9	8.8	-0.1	-8.8	10.6	0.0	9.3	3.3	8.3
New Liskeard	3.9	2.7	2.7	-0.7	8.8	10.2	-1.6	6.4	1.1	3.6	5.7	-17.9	22.6	-12.8	5.8
North Bay	3.0	0.0	3.9	0.1	11.1	21.0	9.2	15.0	7.1	2.8	4.2	-17.9	-3.5	-2.7	-1.2
Sault Ste. Marie	7.7	4.4	9.6	-2.1	5.9	29.1	9.0	4.6	-0.1	11.9	5.2	8.3	8.3	23.0	8.6
Sturgeon Falls	3.5	9.7	-0.1	0.2	3.2	10.5	-3.2	18.5	2.8	10.2	4.7	-41.7	5.5	-7.2	-0.8
Sudbury	5.5	1.1	9.2	7.6	-1.2	30.3	0.4	3.0	9.4	-3.3	19.3	-15.7	-2.1	0.2	5.1
Timmins	3.7	4.0	5.6	3.0	2.1	17.4	8.5	0.4	0.9	3.0	7.5	-10.4	-5.0	-8.6	-0.6
Wawa	2.5	-1.3	-0.5	-0.5	1.4	32.1	-7.3	-1.7	-0.8	2.6	7.1	-25.8	13.0	3.0	5.1

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August 1981 Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	Other Groceries
(including canned juices)	Meats (including
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	beef, frozen lamb,
	pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

Report #40



Ontario

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



June 1984

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #40

JUNE 1984

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

June 1984

ISSN 0228 - 0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES ...	4
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	7
.APPENDICES	10

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto:	
Mar. 3, 1983 to Mar. 1, 1984	
June 2, 1983 to June 7, 1984	
Mar. 1, 1984 to Apr. 5, 1984	
Apr. 5, 1984 to May 31, 1984	
May 3, 1984 to Jun. 7, 1984	
Mar. 1, 1984 to Jun. 7, 1984	3
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario: December 1, 1983, March 1, 1984 and June 7, 1984	5
2a. A 3-store Average Price of Easily Comparable Food Items in 27 Ontario Communities as of June 7, 1984	6
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres: Sept. 1, 1983 to December 1, 1983 Dec. 1, 1983 to March 1, 1984 March 1, 1984 to June 7, 1984	8
3a. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres: March 1, 1984 to June 7, 1984	9

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto increased by 1.2 per cent during the quarter March 1, 1984 to June 7, 1984. Prices increased by 8.5 per cent from a year earlier.

Monthly comparisons indicate that the total price of the 72 food items decreased by 1.6 per cent between March and April; increased by 0.8 per cent between April and May and increased by 2.0 per cent between May and June.

During the quarter prices declined in the following categories: canned juices (0.1 per cent); fresh fruit and vegetables (6.4 per cent); dry groceries (1.5 per cent); lamb (10.0 per cent); pork (2.8 per cent) and poultry (0.8 per cent). These decreases were mainly due to specials during the June monitoring period. Lower prices for lamb and fresh vegetables provided significant downward pressure on the total price of the 72 items.

All other categories registered increases largely due to price movements from March specials.

The 2.2 per cent increase in the 'dairy and eggs' category was mainly due to the lifting of March specials on eggs and higher prices for manufactured dairy products. The April 1 increase in target returns for industrial milk and support prices for butter and skim milk worked its way into higher prices for manufactured dairy products.

Increases of 1.9 per cent in the 'cereals and bread' category; 8.9 per cent in the beverages category and 15.3 per cent for 'canned juices' were largely due to the lifting of March specials.

The 3.0 per cent increase in the 'jams and syrups' category reflect increases in the price of jam.

The 3.0 increase in beef prices reflect increases in Canadian cattle prices which respond to changes in U.S. cattle prices and Canada/U.S. exchange rates. Increased consumer demand during the barbecue season is also exerting upward pressure on the price of some cuts of beef.

The year to year comparison indicates that the fresh fruits and vegetables category registered a significant increase between March 1983 and March 1984. This can be explained in the quarterly movement of prices.

Over the quarter March to June 1983 prices in this category increased by 23.9 per cent reflecting a reduction of supplies from Canadian storage and substitution of higher priced imports. This significant increase was only partially offset by price declines in the two subsequent quarters (June to September, -4.1 per cent and September to December, -6.9 per cent). This category registered another substantial increase of 29.6 per cent over the quarter December 1983 to March 1984 largely due to decline in local storage stocks as well as the upward pressure on import prices triggered by the freeze in Florida and Texas.

The year over year increase was, therefore, calculated from a lower base in March 1983 and the effect was only partially offset during the year.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto.

Category	Number of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison			Month to Month Comparison			Quarterly Comparison March 1/84 to June 7/84 % Change
		Mar. 3/83 to Mar. 1/84 % Change	June 2/83 to June 7/84 % Change	Mar. 1/84 to Apr. 5/84 % Change	Apr. 5/84 to May 3/84 % Change	May 3/84 to June 7/84 % Change		
Dairy and Eggs	5	8.4	13.1	-2.7	4.8	0.3	2.2	
Cereals and Bread	7	6.8	5.3	3.6	-1.2	-0.4	1.9	
Beverages	5	6.3	21.3	1.6	2.4	4.7	8.9	
Canned Fruits and Vegetables								
Canned Fruits	2	8.6	10.2	1.8	-2.1	1.8	1.4	
Canned Vegetables	4	-7.4	4.9	10.0	-4.9	10.3	15.3	
Canned Juices	4	4.0	5.7	-4.7	13.7	-1.8	-0.1	
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	43.4	8.3	-1.0	-7.4	2.1	-6.4	
Dry Groceries	7	15.3	16.5	-1.3	-2.0	1.9	-1.5	
Oils and Fats	4	10.6	14.2	1.1	-5.0	5.1	1.0	
Jams and Syrups	3	10.5	12.5	0.0	-1.3	1.8	3.0	
Other Groceries	6	3.7	1.8	-0.6	-2.0	2.8	0.2	
Meats								
Beef	6	14.1	1.6	-0.1	-3.0	6.3	3.0	
Lamb (frozen)	1	-11.2	-18.9	-7.1	10.4	-12.2	-10.0	
Pork	5	0.5	0.5	-15.3	15.7	-0.8	-2.8	
Poultry	3	14.6	5.2	-4.9	1.0	3.3	-0.8	
Total	72	10.0	8.5	-1.6	0.8	2.0	1.2	

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND
36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored on June 7, 1984 was lower than Toronto in seven Southern Ontario communities. The spread widened in five communities and narrowed in two others.

Northwestern Ontario

Prices were lower than Toronto in seven Northwestern Ontario communities. The spread narrowed in nine communities, widened in one and remained stable in one other.

Northeastern Ontario

Total prices were lower than Toronto in 14 Northeastern Ontario communities. The differential widened in 14 communities and narrowed in 4 others.

A comparison of prices between Toronto and all other communities can be found in Table 2.

Table 2a gives the average price of easily comparable items in 37 Ontario communities as of June 7, 1984.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	Dec. 1/83 % Difference from Toronto	March 1/84 % Difference from Toronto	June 7/84 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	0.1	-4.4	-4.6
Kingston	0.0	-3.0	-1.9
London	-1.3	-1.3	-2.8
Ottawa	-4.6	-7.6	-13.9
Owen Sound	-2.7	-6.4	-7.5
Peterborough	-0.7	-2.5	-3.3
Windsor	-0.6	-3.3	-2.5
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	3.0	-3.3	-0.9
Dryden	0.6	-3.0	-2.5
Fort Frances	-7.5	-12.0	-5.7
Geraldton	1.5	-5.4	-5.1
Ignace	0.6	-0.9	0.4
Kenora	-1.5	-5.3	-5.2
Marathon	5.3	1.6	0.4
Rainy River	3.2	3.0	-0.5
Red Lake	4.7	1.0	1.0
Sioux Lookout	5.7	0.5	0.6
Thunder Bay	-2.0	-9.0	-5.6
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	3.0	0.3	-6.9
Chapleau	8.2	1.9	2.4
Cochrane	0.6	-0.8	-2.5
Elliot Lake	1.3	-2.2	-1.8
Espanola	-4.1	-5.0	-8.8
Hearst	2.8	-0.9	0.1
Iroquois Falls	-2.1	-4.4	-6.9
Kapuskasing	2.6	1.2	-2.6
Kirkland Lake	-0.2	-0.5	-3.2
Manitoulin Island	6.2	3.7	3.5
Moosonee	11.4	9.1	10.5
New Liskeard	1.8	-1.4	-7.6
North Bay	0.6	-3.4	-3.6
Sault Ste. Marie	0.0	0.4	-6.7
Sturgeon Falls	3.7	0.1	-2.4
Sudbury	-5.8	-7.4	-9.5
Timmins	1.4	-1.9	-6.0
Wawa	1.1	-3.4	-1.6

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Table 2a: 3-Store Average* of Easily Comparable Food Items in 37 Ontario Communities, June 7, 1984

Community	Butter 1 lb.	Milk 4 L.	Eggs 1 doz.	Dry Cereal 350 g.	Flour 3.5 kg.	Coffee Instant 10 oz.	Dollars		Bananas 1 lb.	Sugar 3 kg.	Sirloin Steak 1 lb.	Whole Chicken 1 lb.
							Canned Corn 7 oz.	Tomato Juice 48 oz.				
Toronto	2.55	3.49	1.44	1.41	4.58S	7.59	.65S	1.43S	.69	1.99	4.99	1.65
S. ONTARIO												
Hamilton	2.49	2.76S	1.44	1.39	4.79	7.45	.67	1.45S	.52	1.82	4.99	1.79
Kingston	2.55	3.36	1.44	1.42	4.65	7.59	.72	1.47	.67	1.99	4.18	1.75
London	2.48	2.99	1.34	1.41	4.83	7.39	.69S	1.43S	.69	1.79	4.99	1.69
Ottawa	2.51	3.19	1.35	1.11S	4.39	5.14	.60	1.07	.50	1.89	3.72	.95S
Owen Sound	2.44S	1.99S	1.29S	1.39	4.42S	6.12S	.68	1.49S	.69	1.25S	4.42	1.52
Peterborough	2.46	2.46S	1.36	1.39	4.43S	6.52	.65	1.53S	.59	1.65S	5.14	1.35
Windsor	2.41	2.89	1.46	1.43	4.67S	7.05S	.59	1.33S	.65	1.99S	4.92	1.72
N.W. ONTARIO												
Atikokan	2.48	3.94	1.52	1.47	3.83	7.14	.69	1.68	.67	2.02	4.99	1.72
Dryden	2.39	4.08	1.36	1.26	4.34	6.95	.70	1.47S	.62	1.79	4.57	1.55
Fort Frances	2.40	3.88	1.29	1.29	4.46	6.69	.68	.88S	.59	1.73	4.89	1.78
Geraldton	2.55	4.03	1.59	1.34	4.56	7.69	.69	1.57S	.69	1.91S	4.02	1.12S
Ignace	2.51	4.37	1.42	1.32	4.54	6.94	.71	1.64	.65	1.94	4.85	1.59
Kenora	2.38	4.00	1.29S	1.19	4.37	7.51	.60S	1.51S	.59	1.83	4.95	1.80
Marathon	2.57	3.99	1.69	1.31	4.75	7.64	.72	1.54	.79	1.99	4.89	1.80
Rainy River	2.60	4.43	1.54	1.34	4.69	7.35	.72	1.90	.56S	1.85	3.19	1.42
Red Lake	2.55	3.97	1.51	1.32	4.92	7.75	.69	1.55S	.71	1.75	4.09	1.76
Sioux Lookout	2.47	4.29	1.55	1.32	4.93	7.64	.69	1.44S	.66S	2.02P	3.56	1.57
Thunder Bay	2.29S	3.06S	1.24	1.29	4.14S	6.99	.69	1.59	.59	1.93	4.07S	1.69
N.E. ONTARIO												
Blind River	2.19S	3.79	1.49	1.39	4.77	7.79	.59	1.56	.33	1.79	3.69	1.29
Chapleau	2.57	4.40	1.45	1.45	4.89	6.99S	.75	1.67	.69	1.99	4.99	1.59
Cochrane	2.53	4.05	1.43	1.31	4.33	7.89	.68	1.58	.51	1.77	3.88	1.44
Elliot Lake	2.39S	3.69	1.38	1.41	4.79	7.66	.52S	1.67	.69	1.78	4.99	1.33S
Espanola	2.09	2.99S	1.29	1.39	4.13	7.79	.70	1.49	.51	1.59	4.14	1.29
Hearst	2.53	3.49	1.58	1.36	4.63	7.33S	.69	1.57	.74	2.01	4.78	1.63
Iroquois Falls	2.34	4.11	1.46	1.40	4.40	8.05	.58	1.45S	.51S	1.81	2.99S	1.29
Kapuskasing	2.24S	3.85	1.48	1.36	3.34S	7.37	.70	1.51	.64	1.97	4.74	1.60
Kirkland Lake	2.43	4.52	1.42	1.34	4.78	7.29S	.67S	1.15S	.75	1.99	4.45S	1.45
Mandoulin Island	2.59	4.12	1.58	1.40	4.88	7.09S	.73	1.84	.63	1.89	4.64	1.59
Moosonee	2.71	4.49	1.84	1.47	8.25	8.25	.65	1.96	.74	2.30	4.54	1.63
New Liskeard	2.57	3.49	1.47	1.40	4.61	6.49S	.64S	.51S	.51S	1.99S	4.24	.99S
North Bay	2.56	3.49	1.45	1.44	4.33S	5.99S	.69S	1.48S	.69	1.99S	3.99	1.70
Sault Ste. Marie	2.14	2.69S	1.40	1.41	4.79	6.54S	.66S	1.69	.64S	1.49S	1.44	1.44
Sturgeon Falls	2.27	3.80	1.48	1.40	4.81	7.74	.66S	1.55	.64	1.99	4.89	1.59
Sudbury	2.43	2.39	1.29	1.33	4.54	5.69S	.63S	1.17	.55	1.77	4.45	1.59
Timmins	2.50	3.49	1.45	1.40	4.77	7.82S	.65	1.61	.57	2.32	4.42	1.22
Wawa	2.45	4.65	1.47	1.34	4.20	7.57S	.54	1.26S	.69	1.88	3.74S	1.54

Note: Specials are included for all locations

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM
PREVIOUS QUARTERS FOR ALL CENTRES

Between March 1 and June 7, 1984 the total price of the 72 items increased in 22 of the 37 Ontario communities monitored. Total prices declined in 14 other communities and remained stable in one other.

Increases ranged from 0.1 per cent in Marathon to 8.5 per cent in Fort Frances. This significant increase in Fort Frances over the quarter is mainly due to an abundance of specials in that community during the March monitoring period. These have now returned from the artificially low base to regular prices which are, in some cases, higher than the pre-special prices.

Decreases in the price of fresh fruits and vegetables, grocery items, oils and fats, lamb and poultry contributed significantly to price declines in some communities.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are presented in Table 3.

The percentage changes by category for the period March 1 to June 7, 1984 are available for all centres in Table 3a.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Months
for All Centres

Community	Sept.1/83 to Dec. 1/83	Dec.1/83 to Mar.1/84	Mar.1/84 to June 7/84
	% Difference	% Difference	% Difference
Toronto	-0.6	7.3	1.2
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	0.2	2.4	1.0
Kingston	2.3	4.1	2.3
London	-2.0	7.5	-0.3
Ottawa	1.9	3.9	-5.6
Owen Sound	3.0	3.1	0.0
Peterborough	1.2	5.4	0.4
Windsor	1.0	4.4	2.0
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	0.1	0.8	3.7
Dryden	0.7	3.5	1.8
Fort Frances	-3.5	2.0	8.5
Geraldton	-1.0	0.1	1.5
Ignace	-2.1	5.7	2.6
Kenora	-0.7	3.1	1.3
Marathon	-1.1	3.5	0.1
Rainy River	-1.5	7.1	-2.2
Red Lake	1.5	3.5	1.2
Sioux Lookout	0.4	2.0	1.2
Thunder Bay	-0.1	-0.4	5.0
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	3.2	4.6	-6.1
Chapleau	4.5	1.1	1.7
Cochrane	-1.7	5.8	-0.5
Elliot Lake	1.0	3.5	1.6
Espanola	-3.7	6.4	-2.8
Hearst	-0.6	3.4	2.2
Iroquois Falls	-0.9	4.7	-1.4
Kapuskasing	-0.1	6.8	-2.6
Kirkland Lake	0.6	6.9	-1.5
Manitoulin Island	-1.2	4.8	1.0
Moosonee	1.3	5.1	2.5
New Liskeard	1.0	3.9	-5.2
North Bay	2.7	3.0	1.0
Sault Ste. Marie	0.9	7.7	-5.9
Sturgeon Falls	2.0	3.5	-1.3
Sudbury	1.4	5.5	-1.1
Timmins	1.2	3.7	-3.0
Wawa	-0.2	2.5	3.2

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

Table 3a: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, March 1, 1984 to June 7, 1984 (Percentage Change)

Community	% Change	Dairy & Eggs	Cereals & Bread	Beverages	Canned Fruits, Vegetables & Juices	Fresh Fruit & Veg.	Dry Gro- ceries	Oils & Fats	Jams & Syrups	Other Gro- ceries	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
Toronto	1.2	2.2	1.9	8.9	3.6	-6.4	-1.5	1.0	3.0	0.2	3.0	-10.0	-2.8	-0.8	-0.4
S. ONTARIO															
Hamilton	1.0	4.7	5.8	9.7	4.6	-8.0	3.4	-3.9	0.6	-4.9	-1.1	-3.9	0.2	-8.2	-1.9
Kingston	2.3	4.6	5.2	3.2	3.0	-2.4	3.1	-0.5	3.4	-2.9	-2.3	3.4	4.1	18.4	3.0
London	-0.3	2.4	5.2	4.5	1.2	-8.7	-1.2	-2.2	-1.4	-2.8	5.7	-11.3	-6.8	-5.2	-1.5
Ottawa	-5.6	-3.2	-0.5	0.8	-6.3	-8.6	-10.7	5.0	0.7	-10.1	-8.7	-11.8	-8.0	-7.2	-8.5
Owen Sound	0.0	-0.5	6.9	1.5	2.4	-5.7	-6.4	3.0	2.2	2.3	4.0	11.7	-7.5	-5.4	-1.1
Peterborough	0.4	0.3	1.1	1.2	5.5	-14.7	-0.3	-1.9	3.4	-2.5	4.6	7.6	8.2	-4.5	4.9
Windsor	2.0	3.9	6.2	10.6	0.6	-7.8	8.5	0.4	-1.0	2.4	3.8	-26.5	2.6	-13.9	-1.7
N.W. ONTARIO															
Atikokan	3.7	-4.0	1.4	6.3	0.1	1.2	16.0	-1.7	0.3	-0.1	7.2	-13.4	21.7	-4.3	8.1
Dryden	1.8	-0.3	2.6	0.0	-0.1	1.4	3.3	-5.9	-6.1	7.1	5.2	4.6	6.1	6.4	5.7
Fort Frances	8.5	22.5	-5.8	8.2	5.3	2.7	15.8	11.6	-5.2	-5.1	2.0	-8.8	29.3	69.2	16.2
Geraldton	1.5	1.3	-1.2	5.8	6.2	4.9	-3.2	-12.9	-0.8	-2.6	-0.1	33.2	8.5	-2.5	4.8
Ignace	2.6	-1.2	-0.3	4.5	-0.1	-5.3	-1.1	-2.3	1.8	3.1	7.7	-2.3	32.5	-8.7	11.9
Kenora	1.3	1.0	-3.8	2.3	1.1	-6.5	3.5	4.8	2.7	3.3	9.9	0.0	-1.1	-2.3	3.4
Marathon	0.1	0.5	1.4	4.0	6.9	-2.7	1.6	4.1	6.4	-1.9	-4.3	0.0	-8.3	-9.5	-6.1
Rainy River	-2.2	1.2	1.5	-4.0	1.0	-0.5	-0.9	0.3	24.3	3.0	-15.1	0.0	-10.8	-17.2	-12.8
Red Lake	1.2	-1.3	5.9	2.4	0.0	1.8	-1.5	2.5	5.1	-0.2	-6.7	10.8	6.5	4.7	0.8
Sioux Lookout	1.2	3.3	4.3	7.6	0.3	9.6	5.4	-1.7	-0.3	-10.4	-8.8	38.0	-6.6	-2.2	-3.8
Thunder Bay	5.0	2.2	3.1	3.1	17.4	-0.1	6.7	13.4	3.1	4.4	-1.7	29.9	10.4	-8.4	3.5
N.E. ONTARIO															
Blind River	-6.1	0.3	1.9	13.6	-4.2	-26.8	-29.0	5.2	7.1	-19.4	-17.6	70.2	1.8	-23.0	-5.7
Chapleau	1.7	0.3	3.3	-0.3	2.2	-18.3	-0.2	21.2	0.0	0.2	17.3	-25.7	22.4	-22.3	8.1
Cochrane	-0.5	-4.3	1.8	4.5	4.5	-7.2	0.6	3.6	-4.9	-5.0	-0.3	4.9	2.2	-14.8	-0.9
Elliot Lake	1.6	0.7	5.0	1.6	-1.5	-2.2	-3.8	-1.7	-1.8	1.5	15.7	-14.6	8.1	-13.2	6.9
Espanola	-2.8	-10.0	-2.0	13.1	-0.7	-11.0	-16.8	1.8	3.6	-9.5	0.9	-19.7	4.1	-0.2	0.3
Hearst	2.2	5.4	-1.6	1.9	0.2	-3.6	6.1	3.1	-1.0	3.6	5.6	-2.0	13.3	-19.1	4.0
Iroquois Falls	-1.4	3.2	2.8	3.3	-1.9	-7.4	-9.9	-0.1	-2.3	-0.8	-7.1	0.0	4.6	-6.1	-2.4
Kapuskasing	-2.6	-3.7	-5.8	8.0	-3.7	-5.2	-4.4	0.2	1.3	2.2	-3.2	-34.5	-2.3	-9.4	-6.2
Kirkland Lake	-1.5	-4.5	2.2	3.0	1.8	-0.4	4.1	-0.1	-6.0	-2.8	-1.6	-4.7	-10.3	-8.9	-6.0
Manitoulin Island	1.0	5.5	0.1	3.3	1.4	-7.1	-3.7	2.0	0.7	-2.8	2.2	0.0	7.8	-1.1	3.6
Moosonee	2.5	3.3	4.3	5.7	3.0	8.3	0.2	-5.0	2.7	11.3	-2.4	3.2	-0.6	-2.1	-1.3
New Liskeard	-5.2	-4.2	1.2	-6.9	4.8	-14.7	-4.3	-0.3	-1.1	-8.8	8.6	-21.8	-5.0	-10.9	-8.5
North Bay	1.0	2.5	-0.1	7.5	-3.2	5.3	-7.3	18.4	-4.9	-7.5	1.8	-0.4	21.8	3.8	8.6
Sault Ste. Marie	-5.9	-11.6	3.6	-3.0	2.3	-9.3	-9.1	2.0	1.2	-5.4	-8.4	-31.5	-10.3	-15.1	-12.0
Sturgeon Falls	-1.3	-5.3	4.6	1.9	4.6	-7.7	-6.0	-3.6	1.0	-1.8	-0.7	5.6	-1.4	1.0	-0.4
Sudbury	-1.1	1.8	5.1	-6.5	-0.5	0.7	0.1	-0.7	-5.6	-7.6	-1.5	-22.7	6.7	-7.1	-0.7
Timmins	-3.0	1.6	-0.8	-1.7	-1.5	-7.2	-9.9	-1.5	0.3	-1.6	-10.1	-2.7	8.6	-18.1	-4.3
Wawa	3.2	8.8	12.1	-0.8	4.8	-5.5	7.8	2.3	0.8	-4.7	1.1	18.4	7.5	-9.4	3.0

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August 1981 Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables (including canned juices)	Other Groceries
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	Meats (including beef, frozen lamb, pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

Report #41



Ontario

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program

September 1984

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #41

SEPTEMBER, 1984

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

September 1984

ISSN 0228 - 0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES ..	3
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	6
FOOD PRICE SITUATION AND OUTLOOK FOR 1984	9
APPENDICES	11

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>		<u>Page</u>
1.	Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: June 2, 1983 to June 7, 1984 Sept.1, 1983 to Sept.6, 1984 June 7, 1984 to July 5, 1984 July 5, 1984 to Aug. 2, 1984 Aug. 2, 1984 to Sept.6, 1984 June 7, 1984 to Sept.6, 1984	2
2.	Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario: March 1, 1984, June 7, 1984 and September 6, 1984	4
2a.	A 3-store Average Price of Easily Comparable Food Items in 27 Ontario Communities as of September 6, 1984	5
3.	Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres: Dec. 1, 1983 to March 1, 1984 March 1, 1984 to June 7, 1984 June 7, 1984 to Sept. 6, 1984	7
3a.	Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres: June 7, 1984 to Sept. 6, 1984	8

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto declined by 0.7 per cent during the quarter June 7, 1984 to September 6, 1984. Prices increased by 7.2 per cent from a year earlier.

Monthly comparisons indicate that the total price of the 72 food items increased by 1.0 per cent between June and July, declined by 0.5 per cent between July and August and declined by 0.7 per cent between August and September.

During the quarter prices declined in the following categories: canned vegetables (2.0 per cent); fresh fruits and vegetables (24.7 per cent); dry groceries (9.3 per cent); jams and syrups (0.8 per cent) and beef (5.6 per cent). The significant decline in the price of fresh fruit and vegetables was mainly attributable to increased supplies as new crops were harvested.

All other categories registered increases due to price movements from June specials as well as increases in regular prices.

The 4.6 per cent increase in the 'cereals and bread' category was mainly due to increases in the price of cereal and bakery products. These were likely responses to increases in the cost of input such as bread wheat and eggs over the quarter.

The 6.6 per cent increase in the 'canned juices category' was mainly due to return to regular prices from June specials.

The 6.2 per cent increase in the 'oils and fats' category reflected raw oil price increases in the first half of the year.

The 'other groceries' category increased by 6.3 per cent mainly due to the lifting of June specials.

The 'lamb' category showed a significant increase of 25.1 per cent largely due to return to regular prices from June specials.

The 7.3 per cent increase in the 'pork' category reflected higher Canadian and U.S. hog prices and decreased U.S. pork supplies.

The 'poultry' category increased by 4.0 per cent mainly as a result of higher chicken prices. Strong seasonal demand for chicken and higher pork prices helped to push up poultry prices.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	Number of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison			Month to Month Comparison			Quarterly Comparison June 7/84 to Sept. 6/84 % Change
		June 2/83 to June 7/84 % Change	June 2/83 to June 7/84 % Change	June 2/83 to June 7/84 % Change	June 7/84 to July 5/84 % Change	July 5/84 to August 2/84 % Change	August 2/84 to Sept. 6/84 % Change	
Dairy and Eggs	5	13.1	8.6		- 1.0	1.6	0.2	0.8
Cereals and Bread	7	5.3	9.0		3.5	- 1.3	2.3	4.6
Beverages	5	21.3	15.3		- 1.2	- 3.0	4.9	0.5
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	2	10.2	13.6		0.0	1.4	2.5	3.9
Canned Fruits	4	4.9	6.9		8.6	- 0.9	- 9.0	- 2.0
Canned Vegetables	4	5.7	4.5		2.6	- 3.3	7.4	6.6
Canned Juices	10	8.3	-14.9		- 2.8	6.4	-27.2	-24.7
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	7	16.5	3.5		2.0	- 6.5	- 4.9	- 9.3
Dry Groceries	4	14.2	18.1		5.5	- 2.6	3.3	6.2
Oils and Fats	3	12.5	10.6		- 1.0	0.6	- 0.4	- 0.8
Jams and Syrups	6	1.8	6.1		3.2	- 3.2	6.4	6.3
Other Groceries								
Meats								
Beef	6	1.6	5.7		- 4.0	4.2	- 5.6	- 5.6
Lamb (frozen)	1	-18.9	0.0		29.8	- 3.6	0.0	25.1
Pork	5	0.5	10.9		2.8	2.1	2.2	7.3
Poultry	3	5.2	6.2		0.4	- 3.1	7.0	4.0
Total	72	8.5	7.2		1.0	- 0.5	- 1.2	- 0.7

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored in September 1984 was lower than Toronto in six of the other seven Southern Ontario communities surveyed. Prices were similar in one other community. The differential between Toronto and four communities narrowed since June 1984, often reflecting price improvements in Toronto. The differential widened in three other communities although this meant price improvements in these communities.

Northwestern Ontario

Food prices were lower than Toronto in six of the eleven Northwestern Ontario communities surveyed. The differential between Toronto and four Northwestern Ontario communities narrowed since June 1984 reflecting improvements in Toronto in relation to these communities. The differential widened in six other communities and remained stable in one other often reflecting price improvements in Toronto.

Northeastern Ontario

Total prices were lower than Toronto in 12 of the 18 communities monitored. The differential between Toronto and 12 Northeastern Ontario communities narrowed in five other communities and remained stable in one other.

A comparison of prices in Toronto and all other communities monitored can be found in Table 2.

Table 2a gives the average price of easily comparable items in 37 Ontario communities as of September 6, 1984.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	March 1/84 % Difference from Toronto	June 7/84 % Difference from Toronto	Sept. 6/84 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-4.4	-4.6	-2.8
Kingston	-3.0	-1.9	-2.8
London	-1.3	-2.8	0.0
Ottawa	-7.6	-11.8	-9.9
Owen Sound	-6.4	-7.5	-5.9
Peterborough	-2.5	-3.3	-3.4
Windsor	-3.3	-2.5	-2.6
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	-3-3	-0.9	-0.9
Dryden	-3.0	-2.5	-1.8
Fort Frances	-12.0	-5.7	-6.2
Geraldton	-5.4	-5.1	-1.1
Ignace	-0.9	0.4	1.7
Kenora	-5.3	-5.2	-2.8
Marathon	1.6	0.4	2.4
Rainy River	3.0	-0.5	3.2
Red Lake	1.0	1.0	2.3
Sioux Lookout	0.5	0.6	4.4
Thunder Bay	-9.0	-5.6	-2.3
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	0.3	-6.9	-5.1
Chapleau	1.9	2.4	3.0
Cochrane	-0.8	-2.5	-3.7
Elliot Lake	-2.2	-1.8	-1.2
Espanola	-5.0	-8.8	-7.7
Hearst	-0.9	0.1	1.8
Iroquois Falls	-4.4	-6.9	-3.3
Kapuskasing	1.2	-2.6	0.6
Kirkland Lake	-0.5	-3.4	-3.3
Manitoulin Island	3.7	3.5	4.7
Moosonee	9.1	10.5	10.4
New Liskeard	-1.4	-7.6	-3.0
North Bay	-3.4	-3.6	-3.1
Sault Ste. Marie	0.4	-6.7	-4.4
Sturgeon Falls	0.1	-2.4	-2.4
Sudbury	-7.4	-9.5	-7.1
Timmins	-1.9	-6.0	-0.8
Wawa	-3.4	-1.6	1.5

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Community	Butter 1 lb.	Milk 4 L.	Eggs 1 doz.	Dry Cereal 350 g.	Flour 3.5 kg.	Coffee Instant 10 oz.	Canned Corn 7 oz.	Tomato Juice 48 oz.	Bananas 1 lb.	Sugar 3 kg.	Sirloin Steak 1 lb.	Whole Chicken 1 lb.
Toronto	2.59	3.49	1.48	1.49	4.87	7.65	.70	1.42S	.40S	1.65S	4.99	1.69
S. ONTARIO												
Hamilton	2.55	2.62S	1.47	1.45	4.48S	7.75	.71	1.44	.62S	1.65S	4.99	1.62
Kingston	2.63	2.92S	1.44	1.49	4.83	7.59	.70	1.27	.65	1.99	4.69	1.65
London	2.59	2.99	1.42	1.49	4.89	7.64	.70	1.30S	.40S	1.45	4.99	1.69
Ottawa	2.55	3.19	1.39	1.26	4.78	5.31	.59S	1.45S	.45	1.59S	4.45	1.38
Owen Sound	2.52S	1.99S	1.35	1.49	5.43	7.02	.67	1.29S	.55	1.59S	3.65	1.62
Peterborough	2.29	2.26	1.19	1.49	4.52S	7.39	.59S	1.37S	.45	1.99	4.45S	1.67
Windsor	2.37	2.99	1.43	1.49	4.68	6.35	.69	1.56	.42S	1.38S	5.32	1.59
N.W. ONTARIO												
Atikokan	2.48	4.07	1.52	1.35	4.53	7.39	.69	1.76	.57	2.01	2.63S	1.59E
Dryden	2.41	4.08	1.39	1.31	4.48	7.12	.70	1.32	.47S	1.79	4.91	1.72
Fort Frances	2.40	3.96	1.39S	.93S	4.55	6.57S	.70	1.25	.49	1.49S	4.94	1.79S
Geraldton	2.58	4.09	1.52S	1.35	4.53S	7.75	.71	1.51S	.56	1.74S	4.38	1.84
Ignace	2.57	4.05	1.35S	1.37	4.64	6.79S	.70	1.64	.56	1.94	4.83	1.59
Kenora	2.27S	3.98	1.17S	1.28S	4.29	7.36	.67	1.27	.25S	1.60S	5.19	1.78
Marathon	2.69	4.07	1.69	1.49	4.47	7.99	.69	1.49	.45S	1.95	4.89	1.28
Rainy River	2.67	4.36	1.59	1.33	4.96	7.07	.72	1.87	.49	1.77	4.29	1.71
Red Lake	2.61	3.97	1.50	1.59	4.38	7.79	.75	1.69S	.45	1.72	4.25S	1.84
Sioux Lookout	2.50	4.18	1.47	1.34	4.84	7.94	.79	1.71	.64	1.99	5.29	1.62
Thunder Bay	2.63	3.06	1.41	1.39	4.53	7.49	.69	1.39	.59	1.93	4.99	1.29
N.E. ONTARIO												
Blind River	2.53	3.89	1.59	1.48	4.77	6.49S	.50S	1.53	.49	1.79	3.79	1.39
Chapleau	2.53	4.20	1.50	1.52	4.63	8.09	.73	1.53	.49	1.74S	5.29	1.79
Cochrane	2.52	4.05	1.53	1.43	4.68	7.09S	.69	1.72	.49	1.69	4.03	1.29
Elliot Lake	2.41	3.69	1.38	1.41	4.79	7.66	.65S	1.33S	.48S	1.78	4.49	1.48
Espanola	2.44	1.99S	1.32	1.49	4.98	6.49S	.70	1.39S	.49	1.51	4.39	1.29
Hearst	2.56	3.49	1.60	1.39	5.08	7.48	.69	1.39	.63	2.01	5.14	1.69
Iroquois Falls	2.42	4.11	1.48	1.44	4.15S	7.24S	.66	1.20S	.62	1.57S	4.13	1.59S
Kapuskasing	2.58	3.85	1.53	1.45	4.42	6.73S	.70	1.41	.72	1.97	4.99	1.28
Kirkland Lake	2.59	3.03S	1.48	1.28S	4.99	7.71	.69	1.38S	.52S	1.99	3.62S	1.52
Manitoulin Island	2.61	4.32	1.64	1.53	5.09	7.74	.74	1.83	.59	1.89	4.94	2.34
Moosonee	2.75	4.69	1.74S	1.53	4.47	8.28	.66	1.82	.58S	2.30	4.89	2.11
New Liskeard	2.62	3.49	1.49	1.50	4.68S	7.07S	.69	1.67	.38S	1.99	4.91	1.34S
North Bay	2.62	3.49	1.49	1.53	4.87	6.12S	.66S	1.43S	.38S	1.99	4.24	1.73
Sault Ste. Marie	1.99S	1.24S	1.42	1.42	4.79	7.29S	.66	1.69	.33S	1.29S	4.89	1.44S
Sturgeon Falls	2.59	2.89S	1.49	1.51	4.89	7.62	.66	1.48	.33S	1.99	4.99	1.74
Sudbury	2.45	1.99S	1.29	1.41	4.65	7.32	.48	1.43	.35	1.55S	4.59	1.72
Timmins	2.49	3.49	1.43	1.44	4.74	7.72	.65	1.46S	.38	1.99	4.59	1.45
Wawa	2.52	4.53	1.54	1.24S	4.32	8.04	.54	1.42S	.51S	1.88	4.64	1.56

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM
PREVIOUS QUARTERS FOR ALL CENTRES

Between June 1984 and September 1984 the total price of the 72 items monitored decreased in 13 of the 37 communities monitored. Total prices increased in 23 other communities and remained stable in one other. Decreases ranged from 0.1 per cent in Chapleau, Elliot Lake and North Bay to 2.0 per cent in Cochrane. Increases ranged from 0.4 per cent in Espanola to 4.8 per cent in Timmins.

Price increases were largely due to higher prices for items in categories such as cereals and bread, beverages, oils and fats, jams and syrups, pork and poultry.

In many communities lower prices of fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy and eggs, dry groceries and beef were mainly responsible for reducing prices or moderating price increases.

Some centres showed significant increases in the lamb category largely due to the lifting of June specials as well as higher regular prices.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are presented in Table 3.

The percentage changes by category for the period June to September 1984 are available for all centres in Table 3a.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Quarters
for All Centres

Community	Dec. 1/83 to Mar. 1/84 % Difference	Mar. 1/84 to June 7/84 % Difference	June 7/84 to Sept. 6/84 % Difference
Toronto	7.3	1.2	-0.7
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	2.4	1.0	1.2
Kingston	4.1	2.3	-1.5
London	7.5	-0.3	2.1
Ottawa	3.9	-3.9	2.1
Owen Sound	3.1	0.0	1.0
Peterborough	5.4	0.4	-0.9
Windsor	4.4	2.0	-0.8
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	0.8	3.7	-0.7
Dryden	3.5	1.8	0.0
Fort Frances	2.0	8.5	-1.3
Geraldton	0.1	1.5	3.4
Ignace	5.7	2.6	0.6
Kenora	3.1	1.3	1.7
Marathon	3.5	0.1	1.2
Rainy River	7.1	-2.2	2.9
Red Lake	3.5	1.2	0.6
Sioux Lookout	2.0	1.2	3.1
Thunder Bay	-0.4	5.0	2.8
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	4.6	-6.1	1.2
Chapleau	1.1	1.7	-0.1
Cochrane	5.8	-0.5	-2.0
Elliot Lake	3.5	1.6	-0.1
Espanola	6.4	-2.8	0.4
Hearst	3.4	2.2	1.0
Iroquois Falls	4.7	-1.4	3.1
Kapuskasing	6.8	-2.6	2.5
Kirkland Lake	6.8	-1.2	-0.7
Manitoulin Island	4.8	1.0	0.5
Moosonee	5.1	2.5	-0.8
New Liskeard	3.9	-5.2	4.3
North Bay	3.0	1.0	-0.1
Sault Ste. Marie	7.7	-5.9	1.7
Sturgeon Falls	3.5	-1.3	-0.7
Sudbury	5.5	-1.1	1.9
Timmins	3.7	-3.0	4.8
Wawa	2.5	3.2	2.4

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

Community	% Change	Dairy & Eggs	Cereals & Bread	Beverages	Canned Vegetables & Juices	Fresh Fruit & Veg.	Dry Gro- ceries	Oils & Fats	Jams & Syrups	Other Gro- ceries	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
Toronto	-0.7	0.8	4.6	0.5	3.9	-24.7	-9.3	6.2	-0.8	6.3	-5.6	25.1	7.3	4.0	2.0
S. ONTARIO															
Hamilton	1.2	-1.9	3.1	6.3	5.0	-26.7	-15.0	9.5	3.2	7.4	-0.7	32.7	18.7	11.5	9.7
Kingston	-1.5	-2.5	3.0	5.3	4.5	-24.0	-6.9	-11.1	2.8	8.4	-0.7	-2.9	4.1	-5.7	0.1
London	2.1	2.9	2.5	8.5	6.3	-15.8	-6.1	9.0	3.7	2.4	-2.7	7.7	11.9	6.8	4.1
Ottawa	2.1	1.0	8.1	-1.3	8.2	-25.6	-5.7	-3.0	6.0	4.9	11.9	14.2	8.5	19.9	11.6
Owen Sound	1.0	-0.9	5.9	10.7	-2.2	-16.6	3.1	-1.5	8.4	8.0	-8.3	-1.2	3.2	10.0	-1.3
Peterborough	-0.9	-2.6	6.3	4.0	-1.0	-18.8	-5.3	6.2	2.2	0.2	-10.7	-13.1	8.2	19.3	-0.3
Windsor	-0.8	1.1	0.8	-3.1	6.2	-24.2	-14.5	6.8	1.7	-0.3	1.8	9.0	11.3	13.4	7.1
N.W. ONTARIO															
Atikokan	-0.7	2.1	7.4	0.4	3.1	-10.4	-1.2	1.8	-2.7	3.2	-17.1	7.7	2.2	10.5	-4.8
Dryden	0.0	1.2	6.7	2.1	1.6	-18.0	0.8	5.7	2.8	2.0	1.7	-18.7	-2.2	3.2	-1.1
Fort Frances	-1.3	3.0	-1.9	-0.2	7.7	1.9	-3.1	2.7	2.8	0.9	0.9	-0.7	-16.2	-22.1	-9.0
Geraldton	3.4	8.2	9.6	2.3	-1.7	-28.2	1.4	18.4	7.1	1.9	4.4	0.0	16.5	22.6	10.2
Ignace	0.6	-0.8	2.7	3.5	7.0	5.0	-0.7	1.9	0.6	0.9	-10.4	0.0	-3.4	7.2	-4.6
Kenora	1.7	0.1	1.2	3.5	-4.3	2.5	-3.4	-3.3	-4.6	1.9	-2.8	47.3	14.5	5.2	7.8
Marathon	1.2	-3.9	1.3	3.0	-13.4	-10.0	6.2	-12.5	2.0	-2.2	16.9	0.0	30.5	-10.7	15.6
Rainy River	2.9	0.6	1.9	7.4	-1.1	-8.6	-0.1	2.2	-11.5	-1.8	20.8	0.0	11.2	15.6	14.8
Red Lake	0.6	4.1	-1.2	-1.7	6.8	-22.8	4.2	-2.8	0.2	1.7	7.8	-7.4	9.4	4.6	6.3
Sioux Lookout	3.1	-2.5	-1.3	3.0	2.2	-20.4	3.2	6.3	8.3	11.5	21.4	-0.3	10.8	3.7	12.8
Thunder Bay	2.8	4.2	5.3	8.8	-4.6	-12.9	-3.2	2.3	4.3	10.2	6.3	-37.8	15.9	11.1	6.5
N.E. ONTARIO															
Blind River	1.2	-2.7	2.6	-8.4	2.6	6.3	29.5	-0.5	5.0	-3.9	6.4	-41.3	14.8	6.1	-1.9
Chapleau	-0.1	-3.3	3.9	4.5	-1.7	-16.3	0.1	-1.2	-1.3	-7.9	2.9	0.0	2.5	30.0	5.5
Cochrane	-2.0	9.8	6.0	1.4	1.1	-21.2	-2.2	-0.8	2.6	-14.2	-12.6	16.8	-0.8	-1.4	-4.8
Elliot Lake	-0.1	2.9	-0.8	3.8	3.6	16.0	4.6	2.1	0.1	0.1	-4.7	4.9	-4.4	20.1	-1.4
Espanola	0.4	-1.5	9.2	-5.2	0.9	-11.7	0.8	4.0	4.5	-1.5	0.7	-2.5	10.7	-5.4	3.3
Hearst	1.0	-3.4	11.1	5.0	4.2	-25.1	-2.2	3.5	13.8	2.7	-3.5	2.1	7.2	19.6	3.5
Iroquois Falls	3.1	-1.9	-3.8	4.2	4.0	-13.5	11.3	8.1	10.8	6.3	8.6	0.0	7.4	5.0	7.1
Kapuskasing	2.5	7.5	4.5	2.8	3.4	-10.6	-10.5	2.3	-1.7	-1.5	15.7	33.2	0.9	7.7	10.0
Kirkland Lake	-0.7	2.4	0.2	6.9	6.9	-19.4	-12.6	5.1	4.1	4.4	-9.9	3.0	5.4	10.7	-1.0
Manitoulin Island	0.5	-7.8	4.5	-0.3	-2.4	-10.1	-4.0	12.0	2.7	4.6	-1.8	-13.0	10.7	26.7	5.3
Moosonee	-0.8	2.0	-2.4	1.3	-1.2	-23.8	5.6	-2.0	3.3	-1.6	4.7	-11.4	-0.2	7.7	2.2
New Liskeard	4.3	2.1	3.6	10.4	2.3	-15.3	12.2	4.3	2.9	-5.5	7.5	67.0	6.5	6.8	10.2
North Bay	-0.1	2.1	8.0	11.3	-2.3	-27.4	3.7	6.3	1.0	2.2	-7.7	11.2	-1.7	8.2	-1.9
Sault Ste. Marie	1.7	-2.3	2.9	6.8	0.1	-4.5	-1.5	1.5	-2.0	-3.8	13.3	-0.4	2.6	2.2	7.2
Sturgeon Falls	-0.7	-0.9	1.0	5.0	1.6	-21.9	-3.4	3.2	2.1	-9.5	2.9	5.3	3.5	6.8	3.8
Sudbury	1.9	-1.1	3.7	16.7	10.6	-22.2	1.8	1.4	-0.6	1.8	-1.4	44.8	0.1	14.8	3.6
Timmins	4.8	-0.4	2.3	11.7	4.1	-16.4	10.4	3.5	2.6	-1.0	7.9	2.8	15.0	29.8	12.6
Wawa	2.4	3.6	-0.1	8.4	3.1	-25.9	-2.2	1.9	1.2	11.1	6.0	0.0	12.3	13.4	8.7

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

FOOD PRICE SITUATION AND OUTLOOK FOR 1984 (CANADA)

- Food prices as measured by the food-purchased-from-stores component of the CPI rose by 5.7 per cent between August 1983 and August 1984 for Canada as a whole (latest available figure).
- Total food rose by 5.2 per cent in the same period.
- Our own Food Price Monitoring Program indicated that prices in Toronto rose by 7.2 per cent between September 1983 and September 1984.

OUTLOOK

- For the year 1984 prices as measured by the food-purchased-from-stores component of the CPI are forecast to increase by 6 to 8 per cent, according to most recent forecasts by Agriculture Canada and the Retail Council of Canada.

FOOD PRICE DETERMINANTS

First half of 1984:

- Upward pressure on food prices came from increases in fresh vegetable prices triggered by the Florida frosts, higher prices for beef, turkey, tea, fats and oils, fresh and processed fruits and the depreciation of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. currency.

Second half of 1984:

- Fresh fruit and vegetable prices are already showing seasonal declines due to the greater availability of domestic crops and storable vegetables such as potatoes, onions and rutabagas. The price of citrus and competing products may increase if the disease affecting the Florida nurseries spread to citrus trees.
- Grain. Despite the drought in parts of the prairies, wheat prices are expected to experience downward pressure since world supplies are bountiful and prices are set on the world market. Feed grain prices are likely to decline in response to excellent yields of feed grains such as corn and barley in the U.S.
- Pork prices are expected to experience upward pressure in response to increases in Canadian and U.S. hog prices.

- Beef prices increased during the summer months due mainly to higher seasonal demand over the barbecue season. Canadian and U.S. cattle inventory reports indicate shortfall in domestic beef production and supplies due mainly to herd reduction. As a result of tight beef supplies and rising pork prices, beef prices will likely not show the normal seasonal decline in the last quarter of 1984. The herd reduction will likely affect 1985 meat supplies and therefore prices.
- Poultry prices will probably decline as feed grain prices are expected to decrease.
- Sugar prices are expected to remain under downward pressure.
- Cereal and bakery products are likely to show price declines in view of downward pressure in the price of commodity inputs such as wheat, sugar and eggs.
- Manufactured dairy product prices are likely to increase due mainly to the August 1st increase in industrial milk prices set by the Federal government.
- Fats and oils will likely show price fluctuation in response to changes in the supply and price of raw oil.
- Labour and energy price increases are expected to be moderate as in 1983.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August 1981 Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	Other Groceries
(including canned juices)	Meats (including
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	beef, frozen lamb,
	pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

CH 2 ON
C 5
- F 56

Report #42



Food Price Monitoring Program



December 1984

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #42

DECEMBER, 1984

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

December 1984

ISSN 0228 - 0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES ...	3
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	6
CHRISTMAS DINNER	9
APPENDICES	11

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: Sept. 1, 1983 to Sept. 6, 1984 Dec. 1, 1983 to Dec. 6, 1984 Sept. 6, 1984 to Oct. 4, 1984 Oct. 4, 1984 to Nov. 7, 1984 Nov. 7, 1984 to Dec. 6, 1984 Sept. 6, 1984 to Dec. 6, 1984	2
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario: June 7, 1984, September 6, 1984 and December 6, 1984	4
2a. A 3-store Average Price of Easily Comparable Food Items in 27 Ontario Communities as of December 6, 1984	5
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres: March 1, 1984 to June 7, 1984 June 7, 1984 to Sept. 6, 1984 Sept. 6, 1984 to Dec. 6, 1984	7
3a. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres: Sept. 6, 1984 to Dec. 6, 1984	8
4. Christmas Dinner Year to Year comparison	10

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 items monitored in Toronto rose by 0.6 per cent during the quarter September 6 to December 6, 1984. Prices increased by 8.5 per cent from a year earlier.

Monthly comparisons indicate that the total price of the 72 food items increased by 0.7 per cent between September and October, declined by 1.0 per cent between October and November and increased by 0.9 per cent between November and December 1984.

During the quarter prices declined in the following categories: cereals and bread (1.5 per cent); canned fruits (1.0 per cent); canned juices (0.9 per cent); oils and fats (2.8 per cent); jams and syrups (4.9 per cent); pork (4.3 per cent) and poultry (5.6 per cent). These price declines were mainly due to December specials on items in each category.

All other categories registered increases due to price movements from September specials as well as increases in regular prices.

The 'dairy and eggs' category increased by 2.2 per cent largely due to increases in the price of fluid milk and manufactured milk products.

With effect from October 9, 1984 the dairies increased the price of fluid milk to retailers by 2 cents per litre. This triggered an increase of 2.5 per cent litre at the retail level. Milk is often featured at special prices lower than the regular price.

The August 1st increase in the price paid to Ontario producers for industrial milk and cream production is still working its way into slightly higher prices for manufactured dairy products.

The 2.7 per cent increase in the 'beverages' category was largely due to the lifting of September specials.

The 'canned vegetables' category increased by 2.4 per cent mainly as a result of a slight increase in the regular price of some items.

The 3.8 per cent increase in the 'fresh fruit and vegetables' category was mainly due to increases in some fresh vegetable prices as price increases for some salad vegetables offset price decreases for some storage vegetables.

The 'dry groceries' category increased by 6.6 per cent largely due to the return to regular prices from September specials.

Prices changes are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	Number of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison		Month to Month Comparison			Quarterly Comparison
		Sept. 1/83 to Sept. 6/84 % Change	Dec. 1/83 to Dec. 6/84 % Change	Sept. 6/84 to Oct. 4/84 % Change	Oct. 4/84 to Nov. 7/84 % Change	Nov. 7/84 to Dec. 6/84 % Change	
Dairy and Eggs	5	8.6	7.8	1.2	1.5	-0.5	2.2
Cereals and Bread	7	9.0	12.1	-0.9	-0.1	-0.5	-1.5
Beverages	5	15.3	20.7	0.6	2.6	-0.6	2.7
Canned Fruits and Vegetables							
Canned Fruits	2	13.6	8.6	-7.5	10.0	-2.7	-1.0
Canned Vegetables	4	6.9	4.9	-2.7	2.8	2.4	2.4
Canned Juices	4	4.5	11.3	-5.5	0.3	4.9	-0.9
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	-14.9	-5.2	1.4	-0.7	3.1	3.8
Dry Groceries	7	3.5	0.4	6.1	-7.4	8.6	6.6
Oils and Fats	4	18.1	8.9	-0.4	-8.7	6.8	-2.8
Jams and Syrups	3	10.6	3.6	0.1	1.5	-6.4	-4.9
Other Groceries	6	6.1	5.4	-1.8	-1.4	4.2	0.9
Meats							
Beef	6	5.7	16.8	3.6	-2.2	2.1	3.5
Lamb (frozen)	1	0.0	1.5	0.0	-8.6	9.3	0.0
Pork	5	10.9	11.1	4.9	-5.2	-3.8	-4.3
Poultry	3	6.2	-4.9	2.5	11.0	-9.6	-5.6
Total	72	7.2	8.5	0.7	-1.0	0.9	0.6

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND
36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored in December 1984 was lower than Toronto in all of the other seven southern Ontario communities surveyed. The differential between Toronto and four of these communities narrowed since September 1984 often reflecting a larger percentage increase in the total price of the 72 items in these four communities. The differential widened in three other communities often reflecting price improvements in relation to Toronto.

Northwestern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored was lower than Toronto in four of the eleven Northwestern Ontario communities surveyed.

The differential between Toronto and four Northwestern Ontario communities narrowed since September 1984 reflecting a smaller percentage increase in Toronto over the quarter. The differential widened in six other communities and remained stable in one other.

Northeastern Ontario

Total prices were lower than Toronto in fourteen of the eighteen Northeastern Ontario communities monitored. The differential narrowed in ten communities, widened in seven others and remained stable in one other.

A comparison of price differentials between Toronto and all other communities monitored can be found in Table 2.

Table 2a gives the average price of easily comparable items in 37 Ontario communities as of December 6, 1984.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	June 7/84 % Difference from Toronto	Sept. 6/84 % Difference from Toronto	Dec. 6/84 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	- 4.6	- 2.8	-0.3
Kingston	- 1.9	- 2.8	-1.5
London	- 2.8	0.0	-0.3
Ottawa	-11.0	- 9.9	-8.0
Owen Sound	- 7.5	- 5.9	-8.1
Peterborough	- 3.3	- 3.4	-3.0
Windsor	- 2.5	- 2.6	-5.6
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	- 0.9	- 0.9	2.0
Dryden	- 2.5	- 1.8	1.6
Fort Frances	- 5.7	- 6.2	-0.8
Geraldton	- 5.1	- 1.1	1.6
Ignace	0.4	1.7	1.7
Kenora	- 5.2	- 2.8	-4.3
Marathon	0.4	2.4	5.5
Rainy River	- 0.5	3.2	-1.1
Red Lake	1.0	2.3	3.3
Sioux Lookout	0.6	4.4	4.0
Thunder Bay	- 5.6	- 2.3	-3.9
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	- 6.9	- 5.1	-3.2
Chapleau	2.4	3.0	1.2
Cochrane	- 2.5	- 3.7	-3.2
Elliot Lake	- 1.8	- 1.2	-0.6
Espanola	- 8.8	- 7.7	-7.5
Hearst	0.1	1.8	-3.3
Iroquois Falls	- 6.9	- 3.3	-5.8
Kapuskasing	- 2.6	0.6	-1.2
Kirkland Lake	- 3.4	- 3.3	-5.0
Manitoulin Island	3.5	4.7	3.6
Moosonee	10.5	10.4	7.8
New Liskeard	- 7.6	- 3.0	-2.8
North Bay	- 3.6	- 3.1	-1.7
Sault Ste. Marie	- 6.7	- 4.4	-5.0
Sturgeon Falls	- 2.4	- 2.4	-3.1
Sudbury	- 9.5	- 7.1	-6.3
Timmins	- 6.0	- 0.8	-3.7
Wawa	- 1.6	1.5	0.0

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Community	Dollars											
	Butter 1 lb.	Milk 4 L.	Eggs 1 doz.	Dry Cereal 350 g.	Flour 3.5 kg.	Coffee Instant 10 oz.	Canned Corn 7 oz.	Tomato Juice 48 oz.	Bananas 1 lb.	Sugar 2 kg.	Sirloin Steak 1 lb.	Whole Chicken 1 lb.
Toronto	2.59	3.59	1.47	1.49	4.82S	7.59	.71	1.55S	.49S	1.99	4.85	1.45S
S. ONTARIO												
Hamilton	2.49S	2.85	1.49	1.49	4.53S	7.59	.71	1.55S	.49	1.82	4.85	1.42S
Kingston	2.66	3.39	1.48	1.49S	4.37S	6.52S	.74	1.64	.47	1.99	4.85	1.62
London	2.52S	2.45	1.35	1.49	4.21S	7.88	.71	1.55S	.49	1.39	4.83	1.52
Ottawa	2.60	3.29	1.25S	1.29	4.73	5.49	.58	1.37S	.37	1.89	4.35	1.48
Owen Sound	2.39	2.79S	1.29	1.49	5.12	6.35S	.71	1.49	.49S	1.39S	4.64	1.45S
Peterborough	2.39	2.39S	1.29	1.49	4.93	7.39	.71	1.32	.49	1.79	4.85	1.55
Windsor	2.53	2.99	1.45	1.49	4.05S	6.75S	.67S	1.15S	.39	1.59S	4.79	1.56
N.W. ONTARIO												
Atikokan	2.50	4.07	1.52	1.35	4.62	7.74	.69	1.59	.52S	1.86	4.84	1.59
Dryden	2.46	4.07	1.33	1.37	4.84	7.44	.72	1.51S	.41S	1.79	4.30S	1.77
Fort Frances	2.45	4.12	1.38	1.01	4.19S	7.89	.70	1.79	.57	1.89	4.43	2.15
Geraldton	2.57	4.07	1.67	1.34	4.93	7.49	.64S	1.52	.44	1.79	3.79S	1.74
Ignace	2.57	4.05	1.38	1.42	4.87	7.59	.72	1.74	.31	1.89	4.76	1.57
Kenora	2.38	3.98	1.33	1.24S	4.48	6.65S	.67	1.33	.39	1.58	5.33	1.86
Marathon	2.69	4.07	1.69	1.39	4.50	8.49	.51	1.49	.57	1.97	4.99	1.84
Rainy River	2.67	4.43	1.59	1.42	5.00	7.29	.65	1.87	.50	1.83	4.09	1.70S
Red Lake	2.34S	3.94S	1.55	1.40	4.61	8.09	.73	1.17S	.41	1.79	4.17	1.90
Sioux Lookout	2.53	4.18	1.54	1.40	3.81	8.11	.71	1.75	.52	1.83	4.22S	1.69
Thunder Bay	2.63	2.39	1.38	1.34	4.42	6.74S	.66	1.39S	.54	1.93	4.39	1.59
N.E. ONTARIO												
Blind River	2.53	3.69	1.59	1.48	4.55	6.99	.69	.83S	.25S	1.69	3.09	1.39
Chapleau	2.54	4.48	1.50	1.50	4.76	7.88	.73	1.38S	.54	1.89	5.04	1.69
Cochrane	2.56	4.07	1.43	1.43	4.60	7.18	.71	1.74	.37	1.52	3.69	1.44
Elliot Lake	2.43	3.69	1.39	1.46	4.94	7.62	.71	1.34	.41	1.69S	3.89S	1.74
Espanola	2.46	3.29	1.39	1.48	5.24	6.74S	.70	1.39S	.37S	1.14S	3.94	1.01
Hearst	2.53	3.59	1.58	1.49	4.98	7.04S	.69	1.53	.46S	2.01	4.34	1.59
Iroquois Falls	2.43	4.19	1.45	1.17S	4.60	8.17	.58S	1.31	.49S	1.26S	3.07	1.34S
Kapuskasing	2.53	3.93	1.53	1.23S	3.95S	6.44S	.70	1.74	.59	1.67	4.99	1.69S
Kirkland Lake	2.39S	4.59	1.46	1.35	5.07	7.01	.71	1.55S	.23	1.58	3.78S	1.38S
Manitoulin Island	2.63	4.12	1.64	1.52	5.05	8.09	.75	1.37S	.59	1.79	5.04	1.74
Moosonee	2.79	4.69	1.79	1.53	4.95	8.60	.69	1.96	.52	2.19	4.79	1.67
New Liskeard	2.65	3.79	1.51	1.50	3.47S	7.76	.70	1.35S	.37S	1.99	4.19S	.99S
North Bay	2.62	3.09	1.47	1.55	5.04	7.32S	.72	1.27S	.49	1.99	4.54	1.69
Sault Ste. Marie	2.19S	2.79	1.29	1.21S	4.89	7.32	.71	1.39	.41	1.14S	4.42	1.69S
Sturgeon Falls	1.62	3.49	1.49	1.49	5.04	6.79S	.58	1.79	.41S	1.69	4.39	2.13
Sudbury	2.53	2.39	1.29	1.41	4.13	6.69	.73	1.17S	.44	1.59S	4.64	1.42
Timmins	2.51	3.55	1.46	1.50	4.97	7.17S	.69	1.35S	.27S	1.99	3.75S	1.22S
Wawa	2.59	4.53	1.53	1.34S	4.28S	9.62	.60	1.04S	.29S	1.88	4.29	1.57

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM
PREVIOUS QUARTERS FOR ALL CENTRES

Between September and December 1984 the total price of the 72 items monitored declined in 15 of the 37 communities monitored. Total prices increased in 21 other communities and remained stable in one other. Decreases ranged from 0.2 per cent in Sturgeon Falls to 4.5 per cent in Hearst. Increases ranged from 0.2 in Sioux Lookout to 4.9 in Fort Frances.

In many communities lower prices of fresh fruits and vegetables, canned fruits and vegetables, cereals and bread, beef, pork and poultry were mainly responsible for reducing prices or moderating price increases.

Price increases were largely due to price changes in categories such as dairy and eggs, beverages and groceries. These changes resulted from lifting of September specials and, in some cases, return to slightly higher regular prices.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are presented in Table 3.

The percentage changes by category for the period September to December 1984 are available for all centres in Table 3a.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Months
for All Centres

Community	Mar. 1/84 to June 7/84 % Difference	June 7/84 to Sept. 6/84 % Difference	Sept. 6/84 to Dec. 6/84 % Difference
Toronto	1.2	-0.7	0.6
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	1.0	1.2	3.2
Kingston	2.3	-1.5	2.0
London	-0.3	2.1	0.4
Ottawa	-3.9	2.1	2.7
Owen Sound	0.0	1.0	-1.7
Peterborough	0.4	-0.9	1.1
Windsor	2.0	-0.8	-2.4
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	3.7	-0.7	3.6
Dryden	1.8	0.0	4.1
Fort Frances	8.5	-1.3	4.9
Geraldton	1.5	3.4	3.5
Ignace	2.6	0.6	0.6
Kenora	1.3	1.7	-0.8
Marathon	0.1	1.2	3.7
Rainy River	-2.2	2.9	-3.5
Red Lake	1.2	0.6	1.6
Sioux Lookout	1.2	3.1	0.2
Thunder Bay	5.0	2.8	-1.1
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	-6.1	1.2	2.7
Chapleau	1.7	-0.1	-1.1
Cochrane	-0.5	-2.0	1.2
Elliot Lake	1.6	-0.1	1.3
Espanola	-2.8	0.4	0.8
Hearst	2.2	1.0	-4.5
Iroquois Falls	-1.4	3.1	-2.0
Kapuskasing	-2.6	2.5	-1.1
Kirkland Lake	-1.2	-0.7	-1.1
Manitoulin Island	1.0	0.5	-0.5
Moosonee	2.5	-0.8	-1.7
New Liskeard	-5.2	4.3	0.8
North Bay	1.0	-0.1	2.0
Sault Ste. Marie	-5.9	1.7	0.0
Sturgeon Falls	-1.3	-0.7	-0.2
Sudbury	-1.1	1.9	1.5
Timmins	-3.0	4.8	-2.2
Wawa	3.2	2.4	-0.9

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Table 3a: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, September 6, 1984 to December 6, 1984 (Percentage Change)

Community	% Change	Dairy & Eggs		Cereals & Bread		Beverages		Canned Fruits, Vegetables & Juices		Fresh Fruit & Veg.		Dry Gro-ceries		Oils & Fats		Jams & Syrups		Other Gro-ceries		Beef		Lamb		Pork		Poultry		Meat	
Toronto	0.6	2.2	1.5	2.7	2.7	- 0.1	- 3.8	6.6	-2.8	- 4.7	0.9	3.49	0.0	- 4.3	- 5.6	-0.9													
S. ONTARIO																													
Hamilton	3.2	5.2	-0.1	1.7	1.7	- 1.2	8.0	13.2	5.5	- 4.9	0.9	3.4	25.7	5.6	-14.7	3.2													
Kingston	2.0	1.5	-3.1	-7.4	0.8	0.8	4.9	15.5	3.9	- 1.9	1.7	8.0	10.2	11.1	- 7.1	7.1													
London	0.4	-1.6	-5.1	6.2	0.3	- 6.6	4.8	4.8	-0.1	- 4.1	0.5	-0.2	4.3	5.1	- 1.5	1.8													
Ottawa	2.7	3.3	-2.2	3.3	2.1	2.1	0.5	14.2	8.5	- 2.1	-0.3	1.6	-7.0	2.4	5.7	1.8													
Owen Sound	-1.7	5.2	-0.1	-6.8	2.6	2.6	- 1.4	- 5.3	4.6	-20.9	0.1	10.7	-22.9	- 0.9	-17.3	-0.2													
Peterborough	1.1	0.7	1.3	5.1	2.0	2.0	3.2	3.1	-4.6	1.4	5.0	8.7	4.1	- 7.0	-20.3	-2.0													
Windsor	-2.4	2.4	-7.8	3.9	-13.8	-9.4	-9.4	2.8	-8.4	1.1	-2.8	-3.1	21.9	- 1.6	- 1.9	-0.8													
N.W. ONTARIO																													
Atikokan	3.6	4.0	3.1	9.0	9.0	- 1.0	- 1.8	8.6	2.9	7.9	4.5	19.7	14.3	-18.2	- 3.1	1.3													
Dryden	4.1	0.5	0.9	8.2	8.2	5.3	- 2.4	9.3	5.8	5.2	2.4	-5.0	9.2	18.1	- 9.1	4.5													
Fort Frances	4.9	7.2	4.5	11.1	11.1	10.1	0.7	4.2	0.4	11.9	7.5	-2.7	1.9	- 4.9	19.5	-0.1													
Geraldton	3.5	10.1	-4.1	4.3	4.3	- 0.6	4.4	6.4	17.7	4.0	3.9	-2.3	1.2	2.6	- 0.5	-0.1													
Ignace	0.6	-1.7	3.6	5.1	5.1	- 1.0	-19.0	5.1	9.6	6.2	2.9	9.5	1.7	-12.2	- 4.3	-1.4													
Kenora	-0.8	4.0	-0.1	-0.6	-0.6	- 3.9	-11.7	-0.9	0.0	6.3	5.5	7.8	-33.3	- 6.0	1.3	-2.2													
Marathon	3.7	3.9	-2.4	7.3	7.3	3.2	-16.6	0.3	19.9	3.8	7.9	-5.4	0.0	16.5	29.8	7.4													
Rainy River	-3.5	-0.1	2.0	3.6	3.6	- 4.2	-24.9	-2.9	1.2	- 3.8	5.5	-0.4	0.0	8.7	-26.9	-7.6													
Red Lake	1.6	-1.8	4.7	6.1	6.1	- 7.2	-5.0	3.7	6.2	1.2	8.3	5.3	-22.0	1.0	4.7	1.4													
Sioux Lookout	0.2	4.2	-4.6	8.3	8.3	2.3	- 4.9	0.9	1.4	4.3	7.4	-8.7	0.0	- 6.1	- 2.4	-6.1													
Thunder Bay	-1.1	-4.8	-0.8	0.1	0.1	- 3.3	4.1	8.7	-5.8	-10.8	-1.3	1.1	5.3	- 4.7	5.3	-1.3													
N.E. ONTARIO																													
Blind River	2.7	7.3	-3.3	13.4	13.4	2.5	-19.9	2.6	7.4	0.0	42.3	-2.0	0.0	- 9.9	7.2	-4.2													
Chapleau	-1.1	0.0	-0.9	-1.5	-1.5	1.8	- 7.3	-3.4	0.3	0.0	6.7	-2.5	0.0	- 5.6	2.8	-2.7													
Cochrane	1.2	-7.1	4.9	5.1	5.1	1.2	-13.4	-0.7	3.8	2.4	20.9	1.8	14.4	- 2.2	- 3.3	0.9													
Elliot Lake	1.3	0.5	2.5	5.3	5.3	- 1.6	- 8.6	- 4.5	4.3	4.7	-6.7	-4.8	18.7	12.3	21.8	6.3													
Espanola	0.8	11.2	0.2	1.7	1.7	6.3	- 3.8	6.6	-8.8	-20.9	17.7	-0.8	52.8	-10.1	-15.6	-3.3													
Hearst	4.5	-2.4	-7.7	-4.1	-4.1	- 4.9	- 6.2	- 2.0	-1.3	- 6.8	-5.5	-6.1	0.0	- 5.4	0.4	-4.6													
Iroquois Falls	-2.0	0.3	5.4	5.1	5.1	1.2	- 9.2	- 4.4	-1.8	2.9	2.3	-11.8	16.7	-13.1	-10.7	-10.3													
Kapuskasing	-1.1	5.5	-2.0	-10.4	-10.4	3.1	-15.0	15.1	-1.0	- 1.9	5.8	-1.3	-19.6	- 6.2	6.4	-3.2													
Kirkland Lake	-1.1	2.0	0.5	-4.3	-4.3	-10.1	-17.7	2.3	-1.4	- 0.7	6.7	5.6	19.1	6.5	-15.6	3.5													
Manitowlin Island	-0.5	5.0	-3.3	0.0	0.0	1.8	- 5.9	7.6	-3.8	1.0	-4.3	1.7	0.0	- 7.9	- 3.2	-2.8													
Moosonee	-1.7	1.8	5.1	3.9	3.9	1.8	- 5.9	-11.3	1.0	0.3	3.5	-8.7	2.8	- 8.7	- 2.1	7.1													
New Liskeard	0.8	5.1	-5.5	8.9	8.9	- 2.3	0.4	- 0.9	-0.1	- 2.0	15.9	-0.8	-13.4	- 0.8	-17.5	-3.8													
North Bay	2.0	-2.9	0.9	14.6	14.6	- 7.9	- 1.8	0.3	3.3	- 1.2	8.6	11.7	- 1.6	0.8	-11.7	-3.8													
Sault Ste. Marie	0.0	6.5	-1.6	5.1	5.1	- 1.7	-29.4	0.8	-3.9	7.1	9.1	-7.5	22.0	7.3	19.1	2.5													
Sturgeon Falls	-0.2	-7.6	3.1	-4.8	-4.8	0.9	- 8.8	8.0	-3.9	- 2.6	12.7	-4.9	15.1	6.2	8.0	2.0													
Sudbury	1.5	4.0	-3.0	4.0	4.0	- 4.8	- 3.5	2.5	9.3	5.3	1.6	2.0	11.5	4.2	-11.1	1.5													
Timmins	-2.2	-1.9	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.5	- 6.8	-2.9	3.5	- 1.5	0.4	-4.6	-19.3	- 5.5	-11.3	-6.8													
Wawa	-0.9	5.8	-3.7	7.2	7.2	- 5.6	- 8.7	-1.2	- 6.4	- 0.3	-4.7	-2.6	15.6	- 2.9	- 4.9	-1.7													

NOTE: Specials are included for all locations.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

The estimated cost of a Christmas dinner for four people is compared between December 1983 and December 1984 in Table 4. This includes a survey of baking needs and is based in a 3-store average.

Table 4: - Christmas Dinner, Year To Year Comparison

Dinner	December		% Change
	1983	1984	
Mushroom Soup - 10 oz. (2 tins)	.99	1.28	
Garden Cocktail - 28 oz.	.85	1.15	
Turkey Grade A Frozen - 12 lbs.	14.68	17.04	
Cranberry Sauce - 14 oz.	1.29	.99	
Stuffing Mix - Turkey - 8 oz.	1.32	1.19	
Bread Loaf	.75	.78	
Yams - 1 lb.	.59	.62	
Green Beans, fresh - 1 lb.	.99	1.59	
Broccoli - bunch	1.19	1.42	
Christmas Plum Pudding - 15 oz.	2.89	2.29	
Coffee - 1 lb. bag	3.06	4.21	
2% Milk - 1 quart	.88	1.02	
Wine - Ontario	5.95	4.75	
Dinner Total	35.43	38.33	8.18
<u>Baking Needs</u>			
Raisins - 15 oz. (425g.)	2.34	1.44	
Almonds Sliced - 100 gr.	1.75	1.61	
Walnut Pieces - 100 gr.	1.26	1.22	
Butter - 1 lb.	2.44	2.59	
Candied Fruits:			
Mixed Peel, diced - 8 oz.	1.54	1.64	
Cherries Red & Green - 8 oz.	2.19	2.89	
Flour 2.5kg.	2.36	2.52	
Sugar granulated - 2 kg.	1.99	1.99	
Spices:			
Ginger ground 32 gr.	1.17	1.32	
All spice ground 32 gr.	1.41	1.75	
Cinnamon ground 32 gr.	1.27	1.40	
Brandy - Ontario 13 oz.	7.60	7.10	
Eggs	1.30	1.46	
Baking Total	28.62	28.93	1.08
Total Dinner & Baking	64.05	67.26	5.01

NOTE: Specials are included in 3 store average.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August 1981 Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	Other Groceries
(including canned juices)	Meats (including
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	beef, frozen lamb,
	pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

Report #43



Ontario

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



March 1985



FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #43

MARCH, 1985

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

March 1985

ISSN 0228 - 0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES ..	4
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	7
FOOD PRICE OVERVIEW AND OUTLOOK	10
APPENDICES	11

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>		<u>Page</u>
1.	Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: Dec. 1, 1983 to Dec. 6, 1984 Mar. 3 1984 to Mar. 7 1985 Dec. 6, 1984 to Jan. 3, 1985 Jan. 7, 1985 to Feb. 7, 1985 Dec. 6, 1984 to Mar. 7, 1985	3
2.	Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario: September 6, 1984, December 6, 1984 and March 7, 1985	5
2a.	A 3-store Average Price of Easily Comparable Food Items in 27 Ontario Communities as of March 7, 1985	6
3.	Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres: June 7, 1984 to Sept. 6, 1984 Sept. 6, 1984 to Dec. 6, 1984 Dec. 6, 1984 to Mar. 7, 1985	8
3a.	Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres: Dec. 6, 1984 to Mar. 7, 1985	9

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 items monitored in Toronto rose by 1.7 per cent during the quarter December 6, 1984 to March 7, 1985. Prices increased by 2.8 per cent from a year earlier.

Monthly comparisons indicate that the total price of the 72 food items increased by 0.9 per cent between December 1984 and January 1985, declined by 0.4 per cent between January and February and increased by 1.1 per cent between February and March 1985.

During the quarter prices declined in the following categories mainly due to specials: dairy and eggs (1.4 per cent); beverages (0.8 per cent); dry groceries (2.7 per cent); oils and fats (0.2 per cent); other groceries (2.7 per cent); beef (1.5 per cent); and lamb (6.3 per cent).

The 1.4 per cent price decline in the "dairy and eggs" category was largely due to March specials on fluid milk and lower retail egg prices. The Canadian Egg Marketing Agency (CEMA) lowered the price of Grade "A" large eggs by 1 cent per dozen on February 1 and this contributed to lower retail egg prices.

All other categories registered increases due to price movements from December specials as well as increases in regular prices over the quarter.

The 1.3 per cent increase in the "cereals and bread" category was largely due to the lifting of December specials on bread and flour and higher regular prices on these and some cereals during the March monitoring period. Effective December 1, 1984 bread wheat prices to domestic millers increased by 9 per cent. This is working its way into higher retail prices for flour, cereal and bakery products.

The "canned fruits" "canned vegetables" and "canned juices" categories increased mainly as a result of the lifting of December specials as well as higher regular prices on some canned vegetables. The effects of the January freeze in Florida on supplies of fresh fruits and vegetables probably contributed to increases in the price of processed products.

On January 21 and 22 below freezing temperatures in Florida damaged many vegetable crops. Retail prices of imports responded to shifts in supply caused by the freeze damage as well as to depreciation of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. currency.

The 15.5 per cent increase in the "fresh fruits and vegetables" category reflected decreasing supplies of imports caused by the freeze, declining stocks of storable vegetables and Canada - U.S. exchange rate.

The "Jams and Syrups" category increased by 9.5 per cent mainly due to the lifting of a December special on jam.

The 4.8 per cent increase in the "pork" category was largely due to the return to regular prices from December specials.

The "poultry" category registered an increase of 10.9 per cent mainly as a result of the lifting of December specials.

Price changes by category are shown in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	Number of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison		Month to Month Comparison			Quarterly Comparison Dec. 6/84 to Mar. 7/85 % Change
		Dec.1/83 to Dec.6/84 % Change	Mar.3/84 to Mar.7/85 % Change	Dec.6/84 to Jan.7/85 % Change	Jan.7/85 to Feb.7/85 % Change	Feb.7/85 to Mar.7/85 % Change	
Dairy and Eggs	5	7.8	3.8	-0.9	2.2	-2.6	-1.4
Cereals and Bread	7	12.1	6.3	1.0	0.1	0.2	1.3
Beverages	5	20.7	11.5	-0.3	-2.7	2.3	-0.8
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	2	8.6	8.3	4.8	-2.0	1.0	3.8
Canned Fruits	4	4.9	16.5	1.7	0.3	-1.3	0.7
Canned Vegetables	4	11.3	11.9	3.2	0.1	2.7	6.1
Canned Juices	10	-5.2	-15.5	6.8	0.1	8.0	15.5
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	7	0.4	-7.3	0.4	-6.3	3.4	-2.7
Dry Groceries	4	8.9	3.9	2.9	0.4	-3.5	-0.2
Oils and Fats	3	3.6	6.4	2.0	5.1	2.0	9.5
Jams and Syrups	6	5.4	4.5	-2.5	-2.7	2.5	-2.7
Other Groceries							
Meats							
Beef	6	16.8	-0.9	-2.1	2.7	-2.0	-1.5
Lamb (frozen)	1	1.5	5.4	-6.3	6.8	-6.3	-6.3
Pork	5	11.1	4.6	2.5	-3.1	5.6	4.8
Poultry	3	-4.9	8.1	7.3	3.6	-0.2	10.9
Total	72	8.5	2.8	0.9	-0.4	1.1	1.7

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND
36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored in March 1985 was lower than Toronto in six of the other seven southern Ontario communities surveyed. The total price was slightly higher in London. The differential between Toronto and five southern Ontario communities widened, but this reflected price improvements in these communities in relation to Toronto. The differential narrowed in one other community and remained stable in one other.

Northwestern Ontario

The total price of the items monitored was lower than Toronto in five of the eleven Northwestern Ontario communities surveyed.

Northeastern Ontario

The total price was lower than Toronto in thirteen of the eighteen Northeastern Ontario communities monitored.

A comparison of price differentials between Toronto and all other communities monitored can be found in Table 2.

Table 2a gives the average price of easily comparable items in 37 Ontario communities as of March 7, 1985.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	Sept. 6/84 % Difference from Toronto	Dec. 6/84 % Difference from Toronto	Mar. 7/85 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-2.8	-0.3	-1.5
Kingston	-2.8	-1.5	-1.9
London	0.0	-0.3	0.4
Ottawa	-9.9	-8.0	-10.6
Owen Sound	-5.9	-8.1	-7.6
Peterborough	-3.4	-3.0	-6.3
Windsor	-2.6	-5.6	-5.6
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	-0.9	2.0	0.1
Dryden	-1.8	1.6	-1.7
Fort Frances	-6.2	-0.8	-1.8
Geraldton	-1.1	1.6	1.7
Ignace	1.7	1.7	1.0
Kenora	-2.8	-4.3	-4.0
Marathon	2.4	5.5	3.5
Rainy River	3.2	-1.1	-0.2
Red Lake	2.3	3.3	1.9
Sioux Lookout	4.4	4.0	6.6
Thunder Bay	-2.3	-3.9	-2.7
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	-5.1	-3.2	-4.0
Chapleau	3.0	1.2	0.5
Cochrane	-3.7	-3.2	-2.6
Elliot Lake	-1.2	-0.6	0.9
Espanola	-7.7	-7.5	-5.9
Hearst	1.8	-3.3	1.7
Iroquois Falls	-3.3	-5.8	-2.6
Kapuskasing	0.6	-1.2	-2.4
Kirkland Lake	-3.3	-5.0	-3.4
Manitoulin Island	4.7	3.6	4.7
Moosonee	10.4	7.8	9.7
New Liskeard	-3.0	-2.8	-2.4
North Bay	-3.1	-1.7	-1.7
Sault Ste. Marie	-4.4	-5.0	-9.0
Sturgeon Falls	-2.4	-3.1	-2.7
Sudbury	-7.1	-6.3	-8.8
Timmins	-0.8	-3.7	-3.3
Wawa	1.5	0.0	-0.9

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Community	Butter 1 lb.	Milk 4L	Eggs 1 doz.	Dry Cereal 350 g.	Flour 3.5 kg.	Coffee Instant 10 oz.	Dollars		Tomato Juice 48 oz.	Bananas 1 lb.	Sugar 3 kg.	Sirloin Steak 1 lb.	Whole Chicken 1 lb.
							Canned Corn 7 oz.						
Toronto	2.59	3.42S	1.45	1.49	5.03S	7.59	.69S		1.57S	.59S	1.99	4.79	1.72
S. ONTARIO													
Hamilton	2.49S	3.09S	1.39S	1.47	4.29S	7.64	.69S		1.71	.62S	1.35S	4.09	2.15
Kingston	2.59	2.91S	1.45	1.49	4.73	7.57	.69S		1.37S	.65	1.99	4.38	1.42
London	2.39	2.49S	1.19S	1.49	4.87	6.55	.75		1.62S	.67	1.99	4.65	1.72
Ottawa	1.99S	2.98S	.99S	1.20S	4.81S	5.83	.67		1.52	.53	.99S	3.95	1.36
Owen Sound	2.32S	2.65S	1.29	1.49	3.95S	5.95S	.69		1.51S	.65	1.39S	4.48	1.49
Peterborough	2.32S	2.65S	1.29	1.45	4.37	5.95	.69		1.25	.65	1.65S	3.99	1.62
Windsor	2.45	3.12S	1.36	1.49	4.77S	6.15S	.69		1.65S	.55	1.86S	4.79	1.62
N.W. ONTARIO													
Atikokan	2.50	4.19	1.52	1.37	4.92	7.68	.66S		1.86	.74	1.59S	4.94	1.67
Dryden	2.47	4.35	1.37	1.38	4.90	7.72	.69		1.34	.58	1.79	4.46	1.77
Fort Frances	2.45	4.12	1.38	1.01	3.81S	7.89	.77		1.85	.49	1.79S	4.47	1.75S
Geraldton	2.59	4.32	1.55	1.39	5.00	8.36	.64		1.49	.64	1.79	4.39	1.38
Ignace	2.54	4.20	1.41	1.42	5.08	7.59	.72		1.82	.70	1.87	4.34	1.57
Kenora	2.38	4.24	1.31	1.44	4.78	7.71	.59		1.44	.62	1.39	5.12	1.86
Marathon	2.67	4.32	1.69	1.44	5.03	8.67	.74		1.74	.56S	1.89	4.94	1.81
Rainy River	2.74	4.37	1.60	1.35	4.96	7.60	.65		1.67	.61	1.83S	4.07	1.80
Red Lake	2.62	4.14S	1.51	1.43	4.98	8.05	.70		1.46S	.59	1.71	4.69	1.76
St. Louis Lookout	2.51S	4.35	1.52	1.39	4.97	7.65	.77		1.45S	.74	1.89	4.69	1.56
Thunder Bay	2.63	2.69S	1.36	1.39	4.77	7.92	.69		.99S	.64	1.46S	4.59	1.69
N.E. ONTARIO													
Blind River	2.29	3.39S	1.29	1.48	4.89	7.88	.71		1.29	.49	.99S	3.59	1.59
Chapleau	2.42	4.72	1.49	1.55	4.19S	8.43	.73		1.27S	.62	1.74	5.14	1.42
Cochrane	2.55	3.89	1.34	1.43	4.82	7.63	.72		1.83	.59	.98S	3.89	1.54
Elliot Lake	2.29S	3.89	1.39	1.49	4.94	7.62	.71		1.34S	.41	1.38S	4.79	1.74
Espanola	2.29	2.99S	1.29	1.48	4.95S	8.36	.71		1.39S	.59	1.38	4.13	1.34
Hearst	2.38	3.89	1.58	1.44	4.66S	7.78	.73		1.80	.72	2.01	4.66	1.64
Iroquois Falls	2.27S	4.57	1.38S	1.42	4.68	8.24	.50S		1.69	.44S	1.83	3.38	1.39
Kapuskasing	2.58	3.56S	1.53	1.47	3.74S	6.55	.73		1.74	.69	1.49S	4.99	1.54
Kirkland Lake	2.59	4.52	1.34	1.31S	5.07	5.29	.69		1.30	.68	1.29	4.76	1.44
Manitoulin Island	2.63	4.38	1.64	1.53	4.98	8.09	.75		1.66	.88	1.81	4.79	1.59
Moosonee	2.69	4.94	1.84	1.58	5.03	8.20	.69		1.91	.82	2.18	4.19	1.64
New Liskeard	2.29S	3.89	1.29S	1.50	5.09	7.32S	.71		1.42S	.69	1.49S	4.14	1.29
North Bay	2.29S	2.49S	1.29	1.53	5.19	7.14	.71		1.34S	.65S	1.32S	5.01	1.79
Sault Ste. Marie	2.45S	2.49S	1.09S	1.17S	4.28S	7.11	.71		1.28S	.62	1.12S	3.85	1.19S
Sturgeon Falls	2.54	2.99S	1.39S	1.49	5.14	7.59	.64S		1.79	.67	1.39S	4.78	1.48
Sudbury	2.29	2.62S	.99S	1.49	4.09S	7.14	.67S		1.39S	.55	.99S	3.94	1.45
Timmins	2.29	3.62	1.29	1.50	5.00	7.28	.69		1.61S	.59	1.99	4.87	1.39
Wawa	2.42S	4.24S	1.52	1.42S	4.32S	8.67	.56		1.65	.75	1.49S	4.39	1.51

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM
PREVIOUS QUARTERS FOR ALL CENTRES

Between December 1984 and March 1985 the total price of the 72 items monitored declined in 7 of the 37 communities monitored. Total prices increased in all other communities. Decreases ranged between 0.2 per cent in Atikokan and 2.5 per cent in Sault Ste. Marie. Increases ranged from 0.3 per cent in Red Lake to 6.9 per cent in Hearst.

Fresh fruit and vegetable prices showed significant increases in nearly all communities. Partially offsetting these large price increases were lower prices in food groups such as dairy and eggs, dry groceries, other groceries and meats. Many Ontario communities featured fluid milk at special prices ranging between \$2.49 and \$3.39.

Some communities registered significant increases in the meat categories mainly as a result of the lifting of December specials.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are presented in Table 3.

Percentage changes by category for the period December 1984 to March 1985 are available for all centres in Table 3a.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Quarters
for All Centres

Community	June 7/84 to Sept.6/84 % Difference	Sept.6/84 to Dec.6/84 % Difference	Dec.6/84 to Mar.7/85 % Difference
Toronto	-0.7	0.6	1.7
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	1.2	3.2	0.5
Kingston	-1.5	2.0	1.2
London	2.1	0.4	2.4
Ottawa	2.1	2.7	-1.2
Owen Sound	1.0	-1.7	2.3
Peterborough	-0.9	1.1	-1.8
Windsor	-0.8	-2.4	1.7
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	-0.7	3.6	-0.2
Dryden	0.0	4.1	-1.6
Fort Frances	-1.3	4.9	0.7
Geraldton	3.4	3.5	1.8
Ignace	0.6	0.6	1.0
Kenora	1.7	-0.8	1.9
Marathon	1.2	3.7	-0.3
Rainy River	2.9	-3.5	2.6
Red Lake	0.6	1.6	0.3
Sioux Lookout	3.1	0.2	4.3
Thunder Bay	2.8	-1.1	3.7
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	1.2	2.7	0.8
Chapleau	-0.1	-1.1	1.0
Cochrane	-2.0	1.2	2.4
Elliot Lake	-0.1	1.3	3.2
Espanola	0.4	0.8	3.5
Hearst	1.0	-4.5	6.9
Iroquois Falls	3.1	-2.0	5.1
Kapuskasing	2.5	-1.1	0.4
Kirkland Lake	-0.7	-1.1	3.4
Manitoulin Island	0.5	-0.5	2.7
Moosonee	-0.8	-1.7	3.4
New Liskeard	4.3	0.8	2.1
North Bay	-0.1	2.0	1.7
Sault Ste. Marie	1.7	0.0	-2.5
Sturgeon Falls	-0.7	-0.2	1.5
Sudbury	1.9	1.5	-1.0
Timmins	5.8	-2.2	2.1
Wawa	2.4	-0.9	0.8

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

Community	% Change	Dairy & Eggs	Cereals & Bread	Beverages	Canned Fruits, Vegetables & Juices	Fresh Fruit & Veg.	Dry Groceries	Oils & Fats	Jams & Syrupes	Other Groceries	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
Toronto	1.7	-1.4	1.3	-0.8	4.3	15.5	-2.7	-0.2	9.5	-2.7	-1.5	-6.3	4.8	10.9	2.1
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>															
Hamilton	0.5	-2.4	1.0	1.4	3.1	16.5	-10.1	1.4	6.4	1.7	-1.9	-30.8	-0.1	15.6	-1.8
Kingston	1.2	-3.9	5.9	8.8	-0.2	27.4	-12.8	6.1	1.1	-1.2	-5.4	-2.7	-4.8	13.5	-2.4
London	2.4	-1.0	5.9	-6.3	7.7	16.9	6.4	-1.9	5.7	-0.6	1.1	-9.6	4.0	3.9	1.8
Ottawa	-1.2	-3.4	1.2	4.0	5.1	18.3	-16.3	-6.2	-1.2	1.4	-5.9	1.3	-3.3	-4.6	-4.3
Owen Sound	2.3	0.2	-7.2	-4.5	0.2	28.4	4.2	1.5	20.6	5.4	-3.2	24.9	-6.4	11.9	-0.9
Peterborough	-1.8	1.7	-5.5	-16.2	-1.8	20.6	-6.3	-2.8	0.3	-2.4	-8.2	5.1	3.9	25.7	1.3
Windsor	1.7	0.4	7.7	3.7	13.0	22.0	-1.9	1.8	-1.5	-2.5	-4.5	-7.8	4.2	-7.1	-2.0
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>															
Atikokan	-0.2	0.1	0.2	5.5	5.5	10.3	-23.2	-5.2	1.6	-2.2	-1.3	-25.1	20.5	-7.0	2.3
Dryden	-1.6	2.4	-0.8	1.1	-5.6	9.4	-4.4	1.3	3.2	-3.0	-0.2	-29.5	-12.2	-0.7	-7.0
Fort Frances	0.7	-8.2	-2.9	-3.0	2.8	11.0	-0.7	3.6	-2.4	-1.6	12.7	0.0	6.2	-8.3	6.1
Geraldton	1.8	1.1	0.7	5.1	4.7	14.5	-0.1	-1.1	-9.4	-0.9	1.2	-18.6	8.4	-7.2	0.6
Ignace	1.0	-3.4	2.3	3.0	4.2	18.4	4.5	-0.9	-4.7	-1.2	-8.0	0.0	-1.0	-3.7	-4.3
Kenora	1.9	1.1	4.8	7.5	10.3	12.9	-10.2	-1.3	2.0	-3.4	-2.9	1.8	3.2	0.5	0.0
Marathon	-0.3	-1.9	5.7	2.9	8.7	13.1	0.5	3.0	-18.9	4.1	-3.9	0.0	-14.0	-6.0	-8.0
Rainy River	2.6	3.7	-3.0	2.2	-4.0	20.8	1.9	-5.5	9.7	-0.7	-2.9	-0.7	10.1	18.6	4.5
Red Lake	0.3	5.4	1.8	5.4	5.4	16.4	-5.4	-2.5	0.0	4.6	-7.5	-7.1	-3.4	-11.5	-6.8
Sioux Lookout	4.3	2.1	9.8	-1.1	-0.4	18.6	1.9	0.3	1.3	2.3	7.3	6.4	10.7	-0.3	7.2
Thunder Bay	3.2	1.0	5.0	7.5	3.0	7.7	-8.9	14.0	12.9	17.4	-1.5	10.1	0.6	-19.5	-2.7
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>															
Blind River	0.8	-0.2	5.1	8.3	5.8	22.5	-10.4	2.2	-17.2	-1.2	5.6	-21.5	-6.0	-8.7	-2.9
Chapleau	1.0	5.3	-4.9	5.6	2.5	12.7	-1.1	1.4	2.3	-2.6	-0.3	-24.2	1.9	-11.5	-2.9
Cochrane	2.4	3.7	-1.7	2.3	1.5	35.1	-1.1	-1.5	1.0	-0.4	4.0	0.8	-8.0	9.9	-0.1
Elliot Lake	3.2	3.2	0.2	1.0	3.3	4.2	1.6	2.1	0.0	7.6	7.7	-15.7	9.1	0.0	5.5
Espanola	3.5	-3.0	2.8	12.2	0.8	28.3	-4.3	-0.6	19.6	-8.1	2.1	-26.3	0.6	32.3	2.3
Hearst	6.9	6.5	0.1	6.5	12.4	33.4	5.3	9.3	1.4	-0.1	10.4	2.1	0.5	2.8	5.1
Iroquois Falls	5.1	0.5	2.5	4.4	7.8	16.8	-1.7	8.7	1.3	-3.2	14.6	0.0	13.1	-3.6	10.5
Kapuskasing	0.4	-14.4	2.5	4.1	1.7	33.3	-5.6	3.3	0.6	-5.2	-1.1	23.9	5.1	-19.8	-0.5
Kirkland Lake	3.4	-0.2	-1.4	-5.3	12.6	33.3	0.6	1.6	2.6	-1.7	8.4	-8.0	-2.4	18.5	4.4
Manitowlin Island	2.7	1.0	3.1	4.5	7.9	13.6	2.2	4.3	1.1	2.0	3.9	15.0	-9.2	-6.6	-1.7
Moosonee	3.4	2.3	4.8	-3.5	-2.0	27.3	2.6	11.6	4.9	1.7	2.8	0.7	4.6	-6.6	1.9
New Liskeard	2.1	-1.6	13.3	0.6	-2.8	23.0	-9.9	2.0	2.9	0.2	0.7	-0.8	1.8	7.5	1.8
North Bay	1.7	-4.9	0.7	0.3	5.8	18.7	-8.2	1.7	10.4	-1.6	2.4	-2.0	1.3	13.7	3.3
Sault Ste. Marie	-2.5	-2.3	-8.8	0.2	-8.6	28.6	-6.9	2.7	-1.5	-7.1	1.2	14.7	-13.9	-19.5	-6.0
Sturgeon Falls	1.5	-1.2	1.6	6.8	8.5	28.4	-15.2	0.1	0.0	-4.3	8.4	0.0	-4.5	-11.7	0.0
Sudbury	-1.0	-7.2	-4.5	-0.9	8.4	24.2	-14.7	-4.7	-0.3	6.5	-4.8	-17.4	0.6	5.0	-2.4
Timmins	2.1	0.9	3.2	0.0	0.5	20.6	0.4	1.5	2.4	-2.1	6.0	26.8	-12.7	15.0	1.0
Hawa	0.8	0.3	3.9	-1.9	-0.7	37.3	-6.1	6.3	3.4	1.7	0.6	0.0	-14.8	1.8	-4.9

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

FOOD PRICE OVERVIEW AND OUTLOOK

1984 OVERVIEW

Retail food prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 5.6 per cent in 1984.

This increase was primarily due to increases in the price of beef, poultry, dairy products, eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables, tea, fats and oils. The December 1983 freeze in Florida, Mexico, and Texas damaged fruit and vegetable crops, affecting supplies of Canadian imports and leading to higher prices early in 1984. The acreage reduction program coupled with the drought in the U.S. in the summer of 1983, reduced supplies of feed grains and oil seeds, leading to higher prices for these commodities in 1984.

1985 OUTLOOK

For the year 1985, retail food prices as measured by the CPI are expected to increase by 3 to 5 per cent.

Retail food prices are expected to experience downward pressure from lower grain and oilseed prices, large supplies of storable vegetables and moderating trends in some marketing costs. During the first 6 months of 1985, poultry, eggs, cereal and bakery products are not expected to increase significantly.

Upward pressure on food prices will likely result from reduced supplies (hence higher prices) of red meats, higher interest rates and energy costs in 1985.

Fresh fruit and vegetables prices are expected to increase during the first half of 1985 as a result of the freeze which damaged crops in Florida early in the year.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August 1981 Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	Other Groceries
(including canned juices)	Meats (including
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	beef, frozen lamb,
	pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

CA20N
CC
- F56

Report #44



Ontario Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



June 1985

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #44

JUNE, 1985

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

June 1985

ISSN 0228 - 0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	5
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	8
APPENDICES	11

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: Mar. 3, 1984 to Mar. 7, 1985 June 7, 1984 to June 6, 1985 Mar. 7, 1985 to Apr. 4, 1985 Apr. 4, 1985 to May 9, 1985 May 9, 1985 to June 6, 1985 Mar. 7, 1985 to June 6, 1985	4
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario: December 6, 1984, March 7, 1985 and June 6, 1985	6
2a. A 3-store Average Price of Easily Comparable Items in 37 Ontario Communities as of June 6, 1985	7
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres: Sept. 6, 1984 to Dec. 6, 1984 Dec. 6, 1984 to Mar. 7, 1985 Mar. 7, 1985 to June 6, 1985	9
3a. Percentage Change in Prices by Category for All Centres: Mar. 1984 to June 1985	10

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 items monitored in Toronto rose by 1.4 per cent during the quarter March to June 1985. Prices increased by 3.0 per cent from a year earlier.

Monthly comparisons indicate that the total price of the 72 items increased by 1.3 per cent between March and April, declined by 2.3 per cent between April and May and increased by 2.5 per cent between May and June.

Quarterly comparison shows price declines in the following categories mainly due to June specials: canned fruits (4.6 per cent); canned vegetables (1.0 per cent); fresh fruits and vegetables (2.5 per cent); other groceries (0.6 per cent); lamb (9.1 per cent) and poultry (1.7 per cent).

All other categories registered price increases largely due to price movements from March specials as well as increases in regular prices.

The 1.9 per cent quarterly price increase in the 'dairy and eggs' category was mainly due to the lifting of a June special on fluid milk.

The 3.9 per cent increase in the 'cereals and bread' category was largely due to the regular price increases on dry cereal, offsetting the effects of June specials on other cereals and cookies. The lifting of March specials on flour was also a contributing factor.

The 'beverages' category registered an increase of 2.7 per cent mainly due to increases in the price of coffee and the lifting of March specials on other items in this category.

The 3.7 per cent price increase in the 'dry groceries' category was largely due to the lifting of March specials on rice, pasta and dried beans, offsetting the effects of June specials on sugar.

The 1.2 per cent increase in the 'oils and fats' category was largely the result of the return to regular prices from March specials on margarine and slightly higher prices on oil.

The 5.1 per cent increase in the 'beef category' reflected movements from artificially lower prices due to March specials as well as higher prices on some barbecue cuts. During the barbecue season, the demand for steaks and ground beef usually increases and this puts upward pressures on the price of these cuts.

The 'pork' category showed an increase of 1.2 per cent reflecting a reduction in hog slaughter and increased consumer demand, especially for barbecue cuts and cured meats such as ham*.

Price changes by category are shown in Table 1.

OUTLOOK FOR FOOD ITEMS*

Coffee and Tea

Recent declines in world tea prices will likely trigger some reduction in retail tea prices in the coming months. There is usually a substantial lag between changes in primary tea prices and prices at the retail level. Retail coffee prices will likely remain near current levels.

Eggs

On May 31, The Canadian Egg Marketing Agency announced a one-cent per dozen reduction in the producer price of eggs due to lower feed and pullet costs. This could result in lower retail egg prices in subsequent weeks, subject to some lag.

Beef

On June 6, the Department of External Affairs announced an agreement with the European Economic Community regarding imports of beef and veal to Canada in 1985. Under the terms of this agreement, Canada will permit imports of up to 10,668 tonnes of E.C.C. beef and veal. This should increase the supply of beef for manufacturing purposes and could help to moderate seasonal increases in the price of ground beef.

(*) Agriculture Canada Retail Food Price Report 85---No.5,
June 17, 1985

Poultry

Retail chicken prices may show some increases in the coming weeks due to higher consumer demand over the barbecue season. Wholesale chicken prices in the Ontario market have increased by about 7.9 cents per kilogram in the first three weeks of May compared to the average price for the first four months of 1985, reflecting seasonally higher demand.

Oils and Fats

Retail prices for oils and fats could show some increases in the coming months due to higher soybean oil prices for processors. Reduction in U.S. crushings of soybeans in 1985 has reduced the supply of edible soybean oil.

Sugar

World sugar stocks increased in 1984-85 and there is a likelihood of further stock growth in 1985-86. This should help to maintain downward pressure on world prices and as a result, retail sugar prices may show some declines.

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Retail prices are expected to show some decline as supplies of locally grown crops become available in retail outlets. Hail at the end of May damaged many greenhouses in Southern Ontario as crops were near the June and July peak harvesting periods. Fresh vegetable production from this region could be reduced or delayed in the case of replantings. However, supplies from other Canadian and U.S. production areas should compensate for the losses or delays and help to reduce the likelihood of price increases.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	Number of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison		Month to Month Comparison				Quarterly Comparison	
		Mar. 7/84 to Mar. 7/85	June 6/84 to June 6/85	Mar. 7/85 to Apr. 4/85	Apr. 4/85 to May 9/85	May 9/85 to June 6/85	% Change	Mar. 7/85 to June 6/85	% Change
		% Change	% Change	% Change	% Change	% Change	% Change	% Change	% Change
Dairy and Eggs	5	3.8	3.4	2.0	0.7	-0.8		1.9	
Cereals and Bread	7	6.3	8.4	1.9	-4.0	6.3		3.9	
Beverages	5	11.5	5.2	-2.2	-2.9	8.2		2.7	
Canned Fruits and Vegetables									
Canned Fruits	2	8.3	1.8	-7.6	2.2	1.1		-4.6	
Canned Vegetables	4	16.5	0.0	1.6	2.3	-4.8		-1.0	
Canned Juices	4	11.9	12.7	-3.1	2.7	1.1		0.5	
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	-15.5	-12.0	9.9	-11.7	0.5		-2.5	
Dry Groceries	7	-7.3	-2.5	4.9	-6.7	5.9		3.7	
Oils and Fats	4	3.9	4.1	3.7	-8.1	6.2		1.2	
Jams and Syrups	3	6.4	3.3	-3.6	3.2	0.5		0.0	
Other Groceries	6	4.5	3.6	0.3	1.2	-2.1		-0.6	
Meats									
Beef	6	-0.9	1.2	3.4	-1.9	3.6		5.1	
Lamb (frozen)	1	5.4	6.5	6.7	0.0	-14.9		-9.1	
Pork	5	4.6	8.8	0.2	-1.6	2.6		1.2	
Poultry	3	8.1	7.0	-6.6	7.2	-1.9		-1.7	
Total	72	2.8	3.0	1.3	-2.3	2.5		1.4	

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND
36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored in June 1985 was lower than Toronto in the seven other Southern Ontario communities surveyed. The differential between Toronto and four Southern Ontario communities widened, but this reflected price improvements in these communities in relation to Toronto. The differential narrowed in the three other Southern Ontario communities.

Northwestern Ontario

Total price was lower than Toronto in three of the eleven Northwestern Ontario communities surveyed. The differential widened in five communities and narrowed in six others sometimes reflecting price improvements in relation to Toronto.

Northeastern Ontario

Total price was lower than Toronto in 14 of the 18 Northeastern Ontario communities monitored.

The differential between Toronto and 11 communities widened often reflecting price improvements in these communities in relation to Toronto. The differential narrowed in six other communities and remained stable in one.

A comparison of price differentials between Toronto and all other communities monitored can be found in Table 2.

Table 2a gives the average price of easily comparable items in 37 Ontario communities as of June 6, 1985.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	Dec. 6/84 % Difference from Toronto	Mar. 7/85 % Difference from Toronto	June 6/85 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-0.3	-1.5	-3.5
Kingston	-1.5	-1.9	-2.0
London	-0.3	0.4	-3.5
Ottawa	-8.0	-10.6	-11.7
Owen Sound	-8.1	-7.6	-5.6
Peterborough	-3.0	-6.3	-5.4
Windsor	-5.6	-5.6	-5.2
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	2.0	0.1	2.3
Dryden	1.6	-1.7	2.5
Fort Frances	-0.8	-1.8	-1.1
Geraldton	1.6	1.7	0.9
Ignace	1.7	1.0	2.8
Kenora	-4.3	-4.0	-1.8
Marathon	5.5	3.5	3.0
Rainy River	-1.1	-0.2	1.4
Red Lake	3.3	1.9	0.0
Sioux Lookout	4.0	6.6	5.7
Thunder Bay	-3.9	-2.7	-4.5
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	-3.2	-4.0	-3.0
Chapleau	1.2	0.5	2.1
Cochrane	-3.2	-2.6	-3.5
Elliot Lake	-0.6	0.9	-5.5
Espanola	-7.5	-5.9	-6.2
Hearst	-3.3	1.7	0.9
Iroquois Falls	-5.8	-2.6	-4.6
Kapuskasing	-1.2	-2.4	2.6
Kirkland Lake	-5.0	-3.4	-4.8
Manitoulin Island	3.6	4.7	-0.5
Moosonee	7.8	9.7	8.8
New Liskeard	-2.8	-2.4	-3.7
North Bay	-1.7	-1.7	-2.4
Sault Ste. Marie	-5.0	-9.0	-8.1
Sturgeon Falls	-3.1	-2.7	-2.7
Sudbury	-6.3	-8.8	-6.8
Timmins	-3.7	-3.3	-5.2
Wawa	0.0	-0.9	-6.8

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Table 2a: 3-Store Average* of Easily Comparable Food Items in 37 Ontario Communities, June 1985

Community	Dollars									
	Butter 1 lb.	Milk 4L	Eggs 1 doz.	Dry Cereal 350 g.	Flour 3.5 kg.	Coffee Instant 10 oz.	Canned Corn 7 oz.	Tomato Juice 48 oz.	Bananas 1 lb.	Sugar 3 kg.
Toronto	2.59	3.89	1.44	1.52	5.25	8.21	.73	1.75	.69	1.495
S. ONTARIO										
Hamilton	2.29	3.02	1.44	1.55	4.825	8.32	.73	1.425	.60	1.255
Kingston	2.59	3.59	1.45	1.52	5.05	8.11	.72	1.395	.69	1.655
London	2.325	2.495	1.29	1.49	5.27	8.23	.74	1.79	.72	1.39
Ottawa	2.49	1.995	.995	1.37	4.635	6.155	.65	1.495	.575	1.43
Owen Sound	2.255	2.715	1.29	1.49	4.96	7.90	.67	1.75	.695	1.57
Peterborough	2.395	2.495	1.29	1.49	4.245	7.485	.69	1.595	.65	1.995
Windsor	2.45	2.865	1.36	1.52	4.835	8.21	.70	1.525	.69	1.225
N.W. ONTARIO										
Atikokan	2.50	4.19	1.52	1.39	4.76	8.34	.75	1.78	.77	1.615
Dryden	2.46	4.34	1.35	1.38	4.95	7.93	.70	1.305	.65	1.795
Fort Frances	2.46	4.12	1.295	1.06	5.79	7.695	.655	1.89	.59	2.04
Geraldton	2.59	4.37	1.67	1.39	5.28	8.045	.69	1.36	.62	1.645
Ignace	2.57	4.20	1.43	1.42	4.945	7.77	.72	1.85	.725	1.545
Kenora	2.40	4.17	1.38	1.62	4.95	7.91	.705	1.555	.66	1.59
Marathon	2.67	4.50	1.54	1.54	5.19	8.74	.73	1.59	.79	1.95
Rainy River	2.74	4.29	1.59	1.43	5.10	7.425	.73	1.99	.65	1.74
Red Lake	2.69	4.24	1.52	1.44	5.05	8.36	.75	1.245	.665	1.77
Sioux Lookout	2.54	4.42	1.59	1.40	5.31	7.65	.80	1.72	.78	1.87
Thunder Bay	2.63	2.695	1.245	1.39	4.69	8.80	.73	1.84	.69	1.93
N.E. ONTARIO										
Blind River	2.39	3.89	1.39	1.39	3.595	7.495	.75	.995	.58	1.49
Chapleau	3.04	4.66	1.48	1.50	5.17	7.44	.75	1.29	.74	1.89
Cochrane	2.55	3.89	1.46	1.34	5.11	8.31	.74	1.77	.66	1.44
Elliot Lake	2.36	3.99	1.345	1.245	4.145	8.925	.635	1.68	.58	1.295
Espanola	2.44	3.59	1.39	1.245	5.24	7.175	.74	1.39	.63	1.075
Hearst	2.51	3.89	1.58	1.44	5.18	8.09	.63	1.655	.49	1.99
Iroquois Falls	2.44	4.57	1.095	1.42	5.03	8.17	.73	1.69	.58	1.49
Kapuskasing	2.58	4.13	1.53	1.47	5.22	8.35	.71	1.74	.79	1.49
Kirkland Lake	2.52	3.83	1.47	.935	4.615	7.07	.73	1.525	.76	1.455
Kintoulin Island	2.60	4.085	1.53	1.41	4.98	8.25	.73	1.465	.445	1.64
Moosonee	2.69	4.99	1.745	1.58	5.24	8.05	.75	1.91	.75	1.88
New Liskeard	2.29	3.89	1.29	1.295	5.14	7.80	.73	1.69	.69	.995
North Bay	2.29	2.495	1.29	1.295	5.14	7.575	.71	1.55	.69	1.495
Sault Ste Marie	2.295	3.095	1.45	1.51	5.00	7.57	.685	1.475	.595	1.115
Sturgeon Falls	2.49	3.69	1.48	1.295	4.845	8.34	.73	1.79	.63	1.39
Sudbury	2.31	2.99	1.29	1.52	4.63	6.86	.69	1.395	.59	1.525
Timmins	2.29	4.09	1.29	.995	5.17	8.09	.72	1.55	.62	1.195
Kawa	2.47	4.34	1.41	.995	4.58	7.79	.505	1.215	.48	1.27

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

*Three stores are monitored where possible. However, where small communities have two stores only, prices reflect a 2-store average.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM
PREVIOUS QUARTERS FOR ALL CENTRES

Between March and June 1985 the total price of the 72 items monitored declined in nine of the 37 communities monitored. Total prices remained stable in one other community and increased in all others. Decreases ranged between 0.5 per cent in Timmins to 5.0 per cent in Elliot Lake. Increases ranged from 0.2 per cent in Ottawa to 6.4 per cent in Kapuskasing.

The 'fresh fruits and vegetables' category registered price declines in many Southern and Northeastern Ontario communities. Other food groups such as oils and fats, other groceries, lamb, pork and poultry also showed declines in some communities.

Communities such as Dryden, Blind River, Kapuskasing, and Sturgeon Falls registered significant increases in the lamb category, mainly as a result of the lifting of March specials and, in some cases, a return to slightly higher regular prices. In Atikokan, the 'dry groceries' category registered a significant increase for the same reason.

In Kapuskasing and and Sudbury, notable increases in the dairy and eggs category were mainly due to the lifting of March specials on some items in this category.

Percentage changes in price for all centres are presented in Table 3.

Percentage changes by category for the period March to June 1985 are available for all centres in Table 3a.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Months
for All Centres

Community	Sept.6/84 to Dec. 6/84 % Difference	Dec.6/84 to Mar.7/85 % Difference	Mar.7/85 to June 6/85 % Difference
Toronto	0.6	1.7	1.4
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	3.2	0.5	-0.7
Kingston	2.0	1.2	1.3
London	0.4	2.4	-2.5
Ottawa	2.7	-1.2	0.2
Owen Sound	-1.7	2.3	3.6
Peterborough	1.1	-1.8	2.4
Windsor	-2.4	1.7	1.8
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	3.6	-0.2	3.7
Dryden	4.1	-1.6	5.8
Fort Frances	4.9	0.7	2.1
Geraldton	3.5	1.8	0.3
Ignace	0.6	1.0	3.3
Kenora	-0.8	1.9	3.8
Marathon	3.7	-0.3	1.0
Rainy River	-3.5	2.6	3.1
Red Lake	1.6	0.3	-0.4
Sioux Lookout	0.2	4.3	0.6
Thunder Bay	-1.1	3.7	0.0
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	2.7	0.8	2.5
Chapleau	-1.1	1.0	3.1
Cochrane	1.2	2.4	0.4
Elliot Lake	1.3	3.2	-5.0
Espanola	0.8	3.5	1.1
Hearst	-4.5	6.9	0.6
Iroquois Falls	-2.0	5.1	-0.6
Kapuskasing	-1.1	0.4	6.4
Kirkland Lake	-1.1	3.4	-0.1
Manitoulin Island	-0.5	2.7	-3.6
Moosonee	-1.7	3.4	0.6
New Liskeard	0.8	2.1	0.3
North Bay	2.0	1.7	0.7
Sault Ste. Marie	0.0	-2.5	2.4
Sturgeon Falls	-0.2	1.5	1.4
Sudbury	1.5	-1.0	3.6
Timmins	-2.2	2.1	-0.5
Wawa	-0.9	0.8	-4.6

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

Table 3a: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, March 1985 to June 1985 (Percentage Change)

Community	% Change	Dairy & Eggs	Cereals & Bread	Canned Fruits, Vegetables & Beverages	Fresh Fruit & Veg.	Dry Groceries	Oils & Fats	Jams & Syrups	Other Groceries	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
Toronto	1.4	1.9	3.9	2.7	-1.0	-2.5	3.7	0.0	-0.6	5.1	-9.1	1.1	-1.7	1.7
S. ONTARIO														
Hamilton	-0.7	-0.9	4.0	6.2	-2.3	-2.9	-1.9	2.6	-7.9	5.7	-28.3	-3.9	-5.2	-1.6
Kingston	1.3	7.9	1.1	9.2	-0.8	-2.6	10.0	-0.4	-7.6	1.7	-10.7	-3.7	-8.2	-2.5
London	-2.5	-0.9	2.9	7.7	-6.5	-10.2	6.8	-3.3	-4.6	-1.1	-11.8	-9.0	0.5	-4.5
Ottawa	0.2	-2.1	0.9	5.7	1.6	4.2	0.3	-0.3	-5.4	-0.6	8.3	-5.3	2.9	-1.4
Owen Sound	3.6	-0.3	8.6	17.1	5.5	-14.2	4.0	-1.8	-3.1	8.4	8.9	6.1	5.2	7.2
Peterborough	2.4	-3.7	1.7	22.6	4.8	-2.2	-3.1	-2.4	-1.7	6.8	-4.8	-2.5	5.1	2.1
Windsor	1.8	-2.6	4.6	14.7	4.3	6.6	1.1	2.6	-2.9	3.5	-24.6	-12.6	8.4	-4.0
N.W. ONTARIO														
Atikokan	3.7	0.5	1.2	4.2	0.6	20.7	21.6	0.1	2.4	1.2	0.0	-6.5	3.6	-1.3
Dryden	5.8	3.7	4.9	0.6	5.3	23.8	5.0	3.7	-5.3	6.8	64.6	8.0	-3.5	8.6
Fort Frances	2.1	-1.8	12.4	1.6	3.1	3.0	4.3	-11.1	8.6	-0.6	-1.1	27.8	2.3	
Geraldton	0.3	0.8	2.0	1.6	-0.5	2.3	-6.8	-2.3	-2.7	2.0	-26.4	4.2	-13.3	1.8
Ignace	3.3	4.1	1.2	2.0	0.1	6.1	-5.8	2.9	1.2	-0.7	4.4	14.3	17.4	10.4
Kenora	3.8	2.2	1.3	1.3	-1.0	16.5	12.8	1.1	9.2	0.9	7.4	2.2	-1.0	2.1
Marathon	1.0	0.5	1.8	5.2	0.8	25.3	0.2	-0.8	25.3	-2.4	-11.6	-7.4	-20.6	-9.9
Rainy River	3.1	0.9	4.5	5.4	4.0	4.3	8.1	6.0	-2.9	4.6	-8.8	-7.8	-2.2	-1.9
Red Lake	-0.4	-1.8	-1.8	1.3	2.9	9.0	-5.6	6.3	0.8	-1.9	0.4	-3.0	-12.4	-3.6
Sioux Lookout	0.6	1.5	4.7	-3.7	4.3	10.3	-0.6	2.6	-3.5	4.5	-6.2	-0.3	-6.5	0.3
Thunder Bay	0.0	1.5	-2.2	2.9	2.2	12.1	-9.4	2.5	12.2	-5.0	36.5	-12.1	5.8	-3.6
N.E. ONTARIO														
Blind River	2.5	5.4	-8.0	-2.1	0.0	4.6	14.7	1.1	15.9	7.9	63.9	13.8	-14.7	4.1
Chapleau	3.1	2.0	8.0	-3.6	-2.7	7.0	6.6	1.6	2.6	0.9	4.6	6.9	20.5	7.3
Cochrane	0.4	1.3	2.8	8.4	2.2	-2.6	5.5	3.7	0.6	1.6	-25.9	-10.4	-17.3	8.0
Elliot Lake	-5.0	-5.9	-6.4	1.6	0.1	10.8	-3.8	-0.3	-6.9	0.4	9.5	16.3	-19.0	-34.7
Espanola	1.1	5.4	-0.3	-0.7	0.1	-8.8	0.5	4.3	3.1	4.4	6.3	20.1	1.6	-14.4
Hearst	0.6	0.7	2.9	5.5	-1.9	-11.0	1.7	-4.8	1.3	-0.5	4.0	6.5	-4.8	1.7
Iroquois Falls	-0.6	-7.0	5.9	-0.8	5.5	-0.4	7.7	-5.6	-4.4	-1.6	-9.3	0.0	1.5	-3.0
Kapuskasing	6.4	14.8	7.3	16.2	-2.2	-6.8	8.8	-1.5	1.0	1.0	32.2	0.7	26.2	8.9
Kirkland Lake	-0.1	-2.4	-9.0	9.7	4.7	-3.5	8.6	-3.1	-0.1	1.7	-2.2	-8.7	9.8	-1.1
Manitoulin Island	-3.6	-5.5	-2.8	5.1	-10.4	-9.4	-9.4	-11.7	-3.6	-3.5	1.7	0.0	3.8	5.1
Moosonee	0.6	1.6	2.5	4.8	4.8	-4.8	2.1	-10.8	-1.3	-5.0	2.7	-2.0	-10.9	1.4
New Liskeard	0.3	-1.4	-2.2	3.0	3.6	-10.1	4.3	0.7	2.1	6.3	-18.7	-1.3	4.6	1.6
North Bay	0.7	-0.6	4.6	4.9	5.6	-4.3	6.3	-3.3	0.0	-0.3	-4.2	-4.5	-1.5	
Sault Ste. Marie	2.4	3.0	14.8	5.9	1.9	-0.4	4.4	-0.8	3.4	-14.0	-17.6	11.2	13.4	-0.7
Sturgeon Falls	1.4	3.1	-3.2	8.8	-4.4	-6.0	10.7	3.5	3.0	1.9	-3.3	-6.6	5.5	-2.9
Sudbury	3.6	13.4	13.4	2.4	4.0	-5.0	12.5	-4.4	8.8	2.8	-5.6	-9.0	3.6	-2.3
Timmins	-0.5	0.5	1.9	4.7	0.8	3.3	-4.2	-1.9	-2.2	-0.3	-18.9	5.0	-19.3	-4.4
Wawa	-4.6	-7.6	-0.4	-7.3	3.0	-9.4	0.1	1.0	1.2	-14.0	-16.5	-0.3	-5.3	-5.5

Note: Price changes take account of specials in March and June. The effects of specials will be greater in the smaller categories of food items.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August, 1981 Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores where possible. In some small communities only two stores could be monitored. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits &	Other Groceries
Vegetables (including canned juices)	Meats (including beef, frozen lamb, pork and poultry)
Fresh Fruits &	
Vegetables	

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

Report #45



Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program

CA20N
CC
-F 56



September 1985

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT 45

SEPTEMBER, 1985

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy and Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

September, 1985

ISSN 0228-0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	4
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	7
APPENDICES	10

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>		<u>Page</u>
1.	Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: June 7, 1984 to June 6, 1985 September 6, 1984 to September 5, 1985 June 6, 1985 to July 4, 1985 July 4, 1985 to August 7, 1985 August 7, 1985 to September 5, 1985 June 6, 1985 to September 5, 1985	3
2.	Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario: March 7, 1985 June 6, 1985 and September 5, 1985	5
2a.	A 3-Store Average Price of Easily Comparable Items in 37 Ontario Communities as of September 5, 1985	6
3.	Percentage Change in Prices From Previous Quarters for All Centres: December 6, 1985 to March 7, 1985 March 7, 1985 to June 6, 1985 June 6, 1985 to September 5, 1985	8
3a.	Percentage Change in Prices by Category for All Centres: June 1985 to September 1985	9

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 items monitored in Toronto declined by 5.1 percent over the quarter June to September 1985. Prices declined by 1.5 percent from a year earlier.

Monthly comparisons indicate that the total price of the 72 items declined by 1.3 percent between June and July, increased by 0.1 percent between July and August and declined by 3.9 percent between August and September.

Seasonally lower fresh fruits and vegetable prices, down 18.1 percent from June, as well as price declines in categories such as beverages (11.6 percent); jams and syrups (8.2 percent); other groceries (10.0 percent); and, beef (8.0 percent) were primarily responsible for the quarterly decline in Toronto prices. Smaller price decreases were also noted in the following categories: dairy and eggs (1.8 percent); cereals and bread (4.3 percent); dry groceries (2.8 percent); oils and fats (2.2 percent); and, pork (2.4 percent).

Promotional pricing activities were noted on several items and were largely responsible for price declines in these food groups. In some cases, these featurings reflected changes in supply and commodity prices, for example, coffee, tea, sugar, fruits and vegetables.

Partially offsetting the September price declines were price increases in groups such as canned fruits (8.4 percent); canned vegetables (12.6 percent) canned juices (3.0 percent); lamb (7.0 percent); and, poultry (4.2 percent). These were largely due to price movements from June specials as well as increases in regular prices.

Fluid milk showed a decline of 13.0 over the quarter, mainly due to September specials. Manufactured dairy products showed slight increases, partially attributed to the August increase of producer prices of industrial milk and the increase by the Canadian Dairy Commission of the federal support price for butter and skim milk.

Significant reductions were recorded for items in the cereals and bread category, largely due to September specials, resulting in a 4.3 percent reduction in this category. This followed a 7.8 percent reduction in the price of bread wheat and a 9.8 percent

reduction for durum wheat in the July 15 announcement by the Canadian Wheat Board of domestic wheat prices for the August/September period.

The beverages category declined by 11.6 percent mainly due to specials on coffee, tea and chocolate. The price of tea on the world market fell during the first six months of 1985. Increased production in many of the major exporting areas in response to higher tea prices in 1984 has triggered the decline in world tea prices in 1985.

In June, the U.S. Department of Agriculture forecasted a 7.9 percent increase in coffee production for 1985-86 and an excess of exportable supplies over export quotas. These factors will affect commodity prices to which retail prices usually respond.

The fresh fruits and vegetables category declined seasonally by 18.1 percent mainly due to the greater availability of locally grown crops and storable vegetables. Prices are expected to remain under downward pressure as harvesting increase and supplies become more abundant.

Beef declined by 8.0 percent mainly in response to increased supply, decreases in prices paid to cattle producers and reduced demand for selected beef cuts as the barbecue season ends.

Price movements by category are available in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	Number of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison		Month to Month Comparison			Quarterly Comparison June 6/85 to Sept. 5/85 % Change
		June 7/84 to June 6/85 % Change	Sept. 6/84 to Sept. 5/85 % Change	June 6/85 to July 4/85 % Change	July 4/85 to Aug. 7/85 % Change	Aug. 7/85 to Sept. 5/85 % Change	
Dairy and Eggs	5	3.4	0.8	-0.1	0.0	-1.8	-1.8
Cereals and Bread	7	8.4	-0.8	1.6	-3.1	-2.8	-4.3
Beverages	5	5.2	-7.5	-3.3	4.6	-12.6	-11.6
Canned Fruits and Vegetables							
Canned Fruits	2	1.8	6.1	5.2	2.0	1.0	8.4
Canned Vegetables	4	0.0	14.9	0.3	4.3	7.9	12.6
Canned Juices	4	12.7	8.9	-7.8	6.1	5.3	3.0
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	-12.0	-4.3	0.1	-4.2	-14.6	-18.1
Dry Groceries	7	-2.5	4.5	-1.9	0.4	-1.4	-2.8
Oils and Fats	4	4.1	-4.1	-0.9	-1.3	0.0	-2.2
Jams and Syrups	3	3.3	-4.4	-4.5	5.0	-8.5	-8.2
Other Groceries	6	3.6	-12.2	-1.7	-9.8	1.5	-10.0
Meats							
Beef	6	1.2	-1.4	-1.0	3.6	-3.6	-8.0
Lamb (frozen)	1	6.5	-8.9	10.0	3.9	-6.5	7.0
Pork	5	8.8	-1.0	-4.5	6.0	-3.7	-2.4
Poultry	3	7.0	7.3	3.7	0.0	0.5	4.2
Total	72	3.0	-1.5	-1.3	0.1	-3.9	-5.1

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO
AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored in September 1985 was lower than Toronto in the seven other southern Ontario communities surveyed. The differential between Toronto and one southern Ontario community widened, reflecting price improvement in this community in relation to Toronto. The differential narrowed in six other southern Ontario communities.

Northwestern Ontario

Total price was lower than Toronto in three of the eleven northwestern Ontario communities surveyed. The differential widened in ten communities and narrowed in one often reflecting price improvements in Toronto in relation to these communities.

Northeastern Ontario

Total price was lower than Toronto in nine of the eighteen northeastern Ontario communities monitored. The differential widened in five communities and narrowed in thirteen others, often reflecting price improvements in Toronto in relation to these communities.

In some northern communities, such as Moosonee in the east and Marathon in the west, the price differential on the positive side was noticeable. However, there were no dramatic price changes in these communities over the quarter (Table 3). Indications are that the magnitude of price decline in Toronto was a significant factor in the size of the differential.

A comparison of price differentials between Toronto and all other communities monitored can be found in in Table 2. Table 2a. shows the average price of easily comparable items in 37 Ontario communities as of September 5, 1985.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	Mar. 7/85 % Difference from Toronto	June 6/85 % Difference from Toronto	Sept. 5/85 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-1.5	-3.5	-2.4
Kingston	-1.9	-2.0	-0.3
London	0.4	-3.5	-3.9
Ottawa	-10.6	-11.7	-7.5
Owen Sound	-7.6	-5.6	-4.1
Peterborough	-6.3	-5.4	-5.1
Windsor	-5.6	-5.2	-3.6
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	0.1	2.3	7.5
Dryden	-1.7	2.5	5.9
Fort Frances	-1.8	-1.1	-2.1
Geraldton	1.7	0.9	2.3
Ignace	1.0	2.8	7.2
Kenora	-4.0	-1.8	-3.2
Marathon	3.5	3.0	10.9
Rainy River	-0.2	1.4	3.7
Red Lake	1.9	0.0	5.4
Sioux Lookout	6.6	5.7	8.3
Thunder Bay	-2.7	-4.5	-2.1
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	-4.0	-3.0	0.8
Chapleau	0.5	2.1	4.3
Cochrane	-2.6	-3.5	2.0
Elliot Lake	0.9	-5.5	-5.3
Espanola	-5.9	-6.2	-0.9
Hearst	1.7	0.9	1.8
Iroquois Falls	-2.6	-4.6	-1.5
Kapuskasing	-2.4	2.6	5.4
Kirkland Lake	-3.4	-4.8	0.1
Manitoulin Island	4.7	-0.5	6.7
Moosonee	9.7	8.8	15.6
New Liskeard	-2.4	-3.7	-2.8
North Bay	-1.7	-2.4	-0.6
Sault Ste. Marie	-9.0	-8.1	-5.0
Sturgeon Falls	-2.7	-2.7	2.1
Sudbury	-8.8	-6.8	-5.0
Timmins	-3.3	-5.2	-2.6
Wawa	-0.9	-6.8	-1.9

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Table 2a: 3-Store Average* of Easily Comparable Food Items in 37 Ontario Communities.

Community	Butter 1 lb.	Milk 4L	Eggs 1 doz.	Dry Cereal 350 g.	Flour 3.5 kg.	Coffee Instant 10 oz.	Dollars			Bananas 1 lb.	Sugar 3 kg.	Sirloin Steak 1 lb.	Whole Chicken 1 lb.
							Canned Corn 7 oz.	Tomato Juice 48 oz.					
Toronto	2.65	3.39S	1.43	1.59	5.26	6.44S	.74	1.79	.53S	1.82	5.19	1.79	
S. ONTARIO													
Hamilton	2.19S	2.44S	1.36	1.59	5.27	7.17S	.76	1.49S	.51S	1.44S	5.19	1.74	
Kingston	2.52	3.19S	1.44	1.59	3.99S	7.57	.75	1.75	.65	1.59S	5.29	1.79	
London	2.29S	2.49S	1.29	1.53	5.26	6.24S	.70S	1.79	.50	1.39	5.17	1.79	
Ottawa	2.61	1.99S	1.28S	1.47S	4.68S	6.27	.66S	1.52S	.51S	1.32S	4.59S	1.32S	
Owen Sound	2.49S	2.39S	1.29	1.59	4.25S	7.17S	.77	1.59S	.64S	1.39	5.14	1.79	
Peterborough	2.55	2.46S	1.29	1.52	3.33S	6.86S	.71	1.62S	.59	1.12S	5.19	1.38S	
Windsor	2.35S	2.42S	1.36	1.59	5.26	6.40S	.73S	1.55S	.43S	1.39	4.81	1.70	
N.W. ONTARIO													
Atikokan	2.50	4.19	1.52	1.48	4.76	8.76	.72	1.81	.64	1.86	4.49	1.60	
Dryden	2.50	4.34	1.37	1.48	4.95	7.23	.71	1.62S	.49	1.79	4.25	1.77	
Fort Frances	2.46	4.30	1.38	1.39	5.99	6.24S	.69	1.99S	.49	1.97	2.66S	2.05S	
Geraldton	2.59	3.37S	1.67	1.44	5.00	8.65	.69	1.37	.57	1.64S	3.29S	1.66	
Ignace	2.59	4.20	1.43	1.42	5.55	8.48	.78	1.60	.64	1.69	3.69S	1.44S	
Kenora	2.38	4.24	1.31	1.21S	4.67	6.41S	.67	1.14S	.40S	1.21S	5.29	1.68	
Marathon	2.79	4.32	1.69	1.59	5.17	9.11	.61	1.49	.72	1.17S	4.97	1.78	
Rainy River	2.74	4.49	1.59	1.52	5.17	7.89	.73	1.99	.52	1.72	4.07	1.27S	
Red Lake	2.65	4.25	1.51	1.52	5.07	8.11	.75	1.79	.49	1.51	4.11	1.75	
Sioux Lookout	2.54	4.42	1.50	1.65	5.05	7.68S	.76	1.57S	.63	1.72S	4.59	1.58	
Thunder Bay	2.19	2.69S	1.32	1.39	4.69	7.92	.69	1.24S	.69	1.44S	4.19	1.74S	
N.E. ONTARIO													
Blind River	2.49	3.89	1.39	1.39	5.29	9.24	.75	.79S	.39S	1.49	3.49S	1.39	
Chapleau	2.55	4.72	1.48	1.60	5.09	9.27	.68S	1.29S	.56S	1.94	4.74	1.54	
Cochrane	2.65	3.88	1.51	1.29S	5.11	8.74	.74	1.76	.49	1.49	3.04S	1.49	
Elliot Lake	2.44	3.19S	1.19S	1.14S	4.61	7.74S	.64	1.73	.49	1.58	3.69S	1.48	
Espanola	2.49	2.99S	1.39	1.29	5.24	7.80S	.74	1.39	.54S	1.07S	4.39	1.34S	
Hearst	2.52	3.89	1.28S	1.39S	5.25	8.09	.73	1.80	.75	1.99	4.74S	1.58	
Iroquois Falls	2.48	4.43	1.41	1.22	5.08	8.17	.74	1.04S	.44S	1.39	3.49S	1.24S	
Kapuskasing	2.63	4.13	1.55	1.58	4.62S	7.96S	.71	1.74	.57S	1.79	5.14	1.69	
Kirkland Lake	2.56	3.40S	1.47	1.47	5.23	7.89	.76	1.62	.47S	1.65S	4.45	1.43	
Manitowlin Island	2.60	4.07	1.53	1.58	4.93	8.98	.74	1.41S	.44S	1.54	5.04	1.54	
Moosonee	2.69	5.00	1.84	1.69	5.03	9.27	.75	1.64S	.59	1.78S	4.57	1.99	
New Liskeard	2.47	2.39S	1.29	1.29S	5.29	7.80	.75	1.79	.54S	.99S	4.39	1.39S	
North Bay	2.61	2.46S	1.25S	1.60	5.31	6.86S	.71	1.42S	.62S	1.99	4.70S	1.72	
Sault Ste. Marie	2.58	2.39S	1.25S	1.52	5.02	7.61	.72	1.67	.59	.99	4.69	1.55	
Sturgeon Falls	2.12S	3.14S	1.48	1.59	5.27	8.67	.67S	1.79	.51S	1.74S	5.14	1.63	
Sudbury	2.60	2.79S	1.19	1.59	4.94	6.44	.65	1.85	.50	1.15S	3.74	1.82	
Timmins	2.59	2.89S	1.25S	1.29	5.24	8.28	.73	1.70	.45	1.05S	4.69	1.18	
Wawa	2.42	4.34	1.49	1.26S	4.98	8.17S	.72	1.19S	.49	1.27	3.48S	1.19	

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES
FROM PREVIOUS QUARTERS FOR ALL CENTRES.

Between June and September 1985, the total price of the 72 items monitored declined in 31 of the 37 communities monitored. Total prices remained stable in one other community and increased in 5 others. Decreases ranged from 0.1 percent in Kirkland Lake to 6.4 percent in Kenora. Increases ranged from 0.1 percent in Espanola to 2.0 percent in Marathon.

The fresh fruits and vegetables category registered significant price declines in all Ontario communities. This was largely due to seasonally lower prices for fresh fruits and fresh vegetables, triggered by the increased availability of locally grown crops.

Some centres showed price declines in the dairy and eggs category largely due to specials on milk.

Beef prices decreased in most centres, reflecting increased supply and lower prices paid to producers as well as reduced demand as the barbecue season ends.

The "dry groceries" and "other groceries" categories also contributed to reducing prices or moderating price increases in many communities.

Some centres showed significant increases in categories such as lamb, pork and poultry, mainly due to the lifting of June specials on items in these groups.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are presented in Table 3.

Percentage changes by food category for the period June to September 1985 are available for all centres in Table 3a.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Months
for All Centres

Community	Dec.6/84 to Mar. 7/85 % Difference	Mar.7/85 to June 6/85 % Difference	June 6/85 to Sept. 5/85 % Difference
Toronto	1.7	1.4	-5.1
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	0.5	-0.7	-4.0
Kingston	1.2	1.3	-3.5
London	2.4	-2.5	-5.5
Ottawa	-1.2	0.2	-0.6
Owen Sound	2.3	3.6	-3.6
Peterborough	-1.8	2.4	-4.8
Windsor	1.7	1.8	-3.5
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	-0.2	3.7	-0.3
Dryden	-1.6	5.8	-1.9
Fort Frances	0.7	2.1	-6.0
Geraldton	1.8	0.3	-3.7
Ignace	1.0	3.3	-1.0
Kenora	1.9	3.8	-6.4
Marathon	-0.3	1.0	2.1
Rainy River	2.6	3.1	-3.0
Red Lake	0.3	-0.4	0.0
Sioux Lookout	4.3	0.6	-2.8
Thunder Bay	3.7	0.0	-2.7
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	0.8	2.5	-1.4
Chapleau	1.0	3.1	-3.1
Cochrane	2.4	0.4	0.3
Elliot Lake	3.2	-5.0	-5.0
Espanola	3.5	1.1	0.1
Hearst	6.9	0.6	-4.2
Iroquois Falls	5.1	-0.6	-2.1
Kapuskasing	0.4	6.4	-2.6
Kirkland Lake	3.4	-0.1	-0.1
Manitoulin Island	2.7	-3.6	1.8
Moosonee	3.4	0.6	0.9
New Liskeard	2.1	0.3	-4.3
North Bay	1.7	0.7	-3.3
Sault Ste. Marie	-2.5	2.4	-1.9
Sturgeon Falls	1.5	1.4	-0.5
Sudbury	-1.0	3.6	-3.3
Timmins	2.1	-0.5	-2.5
Wawa	0.8	-4.6	-0.2

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

Table 3a: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, June to September 1985 (Percentage Change)

Community	% Change	Dairy & Eggs	Cereals & Bread	Beverages	Canned Fruits & Vegetables & Juices	Fresh Fruits & Veggies.	Dry Groceries	Oils & Fats	Jams & Syrups	Other Groceries	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
Toronto	-5.1	-1.8	-4.3	-11.6	6.3	-18.1	-2.8	-2.2	-8.3	-10.0	-8.0	7.0	-2.4	4.2	-3.3
S. ONTARIO															
Hamilton	-4.0	0.1	-2.8	-6.9	4.8	-27.1	-4.3	-0.1	-5.5	-5.5	-6.7	6.6	-0.5	11.6	-1.3
Kingston	-3.5	-7.5	-9.7	-2.7	4.3	-21.1	-8.1	-1.3	1.4	4.7	-3.8	15.1	3.8	1.0	0.7
London	-5.5	-2.8	-6.3	-11.4	1.7	-20.1	-11.3	-2.5	-4.7	-10.4	-0.9	13.8	-1.3	3.2	0.4
Ottawa	-0.6	-0.8	-4.9	-0.7	2.4	-25.6	10.5	2.6	2.7	3.1	4.8	-12.6	0.2	5.3	1.9
Owen Sound	-3.6	-2.5	-6.5	1.1	-1.6	-16.2	-5.3	-4.1	0.7	-11.0	-4.1	-12.1	2.4	11.5	-0.3
Peterborough	-4.8	3.3	-10.7	-3.6	3.6	-23.0	-7.5	-3.9	0.3	-5.8	-1.2	-2.0	-6.9	-6.5	-4.2
Windsor	-3.5	-1.7	-1.5	-9.1	-4.0	-28.7	-5.9	2.4	-2.5	-3.6	-1.1	11.7	11.9	4.4	4.9
N.W. ONTARIO															
Atikokan	-0.3	2.2	1.5	1.6	2.0	-25.9	2.7	3.0	-0.3	3.8	3.9	0.0	-0.9	4.4	2.1
Dryden	-1.9	-0.4	1.4	-1.8	2.7	-23.9	-0.6	0.2	0.9	3.2	1.5	-19.8	-0.8	3.6	-0.7
Fort Frances	-6.0	11.0	5.1	-10.4	-13.7	-30.7	0.5	-2.7	1.1	-3.3	-22.7	0.0	0.2	-2.5	-9.9
Geraldton	-3.7	-3.8	-1.3	-1.1	1.2	-23.6	4.7	-2.5	2.5	-6.0	-14.2	35.9	-9.4	21.9	-5.5
Ignace	-1.0	3.9	5.2	5.3	1.3	-13.7	-11.0	6.2	7.2	-1.4	-9.1	0.0	2.6	-17.5	-5.4
Kenora	-6.4	-1.6	-3.2	-8.5	-1.1	-29.9	-9.0	5.5	-10.6	-4.9	-11.5	11.2	0.7	-1.1	-4.3
Marathon	2.1	6.2	2.2	0.4	2.1	-17.1	-4.8	3.7	-1.0	2.7	14.1	-4.6	4.4	27.4	10.5
Rainy River	-2.1	2.9	1.2	1.2	5.3	-17.4	3.0	-6.7	-1.0	-3.9	4.5	0.0	-2.1	-20.5	-5.7
Red Lake	0.0	6.0	4.4	-7.6	2.4	-30.9	-6.1	0.0	0.6	2.5	1.7	27.3	14.1	23.9	11.0
Stouffville	-0.2	1.4	6.6	6.6	0.1	-23.1	-4.1	5.8	2.6	-5.6	-2.2	-8.4	-14.5	3.0	-6.3
Thunder Bay	-2.7	-12.3	1.5	-2.9	-0.5	-25.6	10.7	0.7	6.6	-11.2	-8.7	13.4	9.5	16.4	2.8
N.E. ONTARIO															
Blind River	-1.4	0.0	7.8	3.2	0.4	-20.9	-2.4	-5.1	0.0	-0.7	4.2	0.0	-11.5	11.5	-2.1
Chapleau	-3.1	-4.6	2.3	10.9	-2.0	-10.1	-6.3	2.8	2.3	0.3	-13.0	0.0	-11.6	-15.5	-12.1
Cochrane	0.3	0.8	-1.2	3.7	-1.1	-16.6	-2.5	2.1	1.6	0.7	-10.0	0.7	25.7	10.3	4.9
Elliot Lake	-5.0	-4.2	3.2	-8.0	0.6	-22.4	-9.8	-9.5	2.2	-16.1	-5.0	18.0	2.1	19.7	2.1
Espanola	0.1	-4.7	0.0	7.9	3.0	-11.9	-7.6	0.9	0.0	1.1	-13.7	-7.4	19.4	26.4	3.1
Hearst	-4.2	-6.7	3.4	-0.3	-0.7	-9.8	-7.1	-3.6	-1.6	-0.8	-10.7	-1.9	-2.7	2.5	-5.4
Iroquois Falls	-2.1	9.5	-2.8	0.9	-6.2	-12.8	-5.8	6.4	2.0	0.6	-0.4	-3.6	-8.8	-12.6	-5.4
Kapuskasing	-2.6	-2.8	-0.5	0.0	-1.2	-18.1	5.9	2.4	2.5	-5.7	-6.9	-24.3	0.9	4.5	-4.3
Kirkland Lake	-0.1	-8.6	11.5	5.0	-0.7	-18.0	1.2	-4.8	2.2	-2.7	0.4	-1.3	5.3	11.8	3.7
Manitowish Island	1.8	6.0	3.3	3.4	5.6	-8.3	-1.6	10.4	1.0	3.2	0.6	0.0	-3.0	-2.8	-1.2
Moosonee	0.9	0.5	-1.6	6.8	2.9	-12.1	0.5	-1.2	-0.1	0.4	-5.7	0.0	7.6	28.3	2.9
New Liskeard	-4.3	-6.4	-1.8	-1.4	5.9	-16.1	-10.0	-1.2	0.0	-13.1	-11.9	11.9	-3.7	9.9	-5.5
North Bay	-3.3	1.5	-7.3	-3.8	2.1	-16.9	-6.6	-4.1	-2.4	2.1	-9.2	-10.8	9.2	0.0	-1.5
Sault Ste. Marie	-1.9	-9.5	-2.9	-0.6	1.7	-17.2	-5.9	4.4	2.6	-7.5	12.3	-7.8	5.9	9.8	8.0
Sturgeon Falls	-0.5	2.4	2.4	1.1	2.1	-20.7	-2.8	0.3	-2.7	-2.8	-0.4	-22.9	16.4	-2.5	2.9
Stubbey	-3.3	-1.3	-2.0	5.1	3.4	-22.6	-10.4	1.9	5.7	-3.1	-10.9	-1.8	10.7	3.5	-0.3
Timmins	-2.5	0.1	-1.7	-1.9	2.9	-18.2	-10.6	-1.6	-1.6	-5.1	-5.1	28.9	-2.5	24.6	1.3
Wawa	-0.2	-0.2	4.7	-1.2	6.6	-10.8	-0.6	-8.4	16.6	13.2	-15.1	-21.5	11.0	-6.2	-5.4

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 Ontario communities were monitored. In August, 1981, Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 percent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 55 percent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores where possible. In some small communities only two stores could be monitored. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability are often encountered in some of the more remote and smaller communities, appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size. Staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

- . Dairy and Eggs;
- . Cereals and Bread;
- . Canned Fruits and Vegetables (including canned juices);
- . Fresh Fruits and Vegetables;
- . Dry Groceries;
- . Oils and Fats;
- . Jams and Syrups;
- . Other Groceries; and
- . Meats (including beef, frozen lamb, pork and poultry).

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. Other calculations included a comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres as well as percentage changes in prices from previous months for all the centres.

CA2Q/N
CC
-F56

Report #46



Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



December 1985

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT 46

DECEMBER, 1985

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy and Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

December, 1985

ISSN 0228-0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
FOOD PRICE OUTLOOK 1986	2
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	4
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	7
CHRISTMAS DINNER	10
APPENDICES: Scope of Monitoring & Methodology	11

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>		<u>Page</u>
1.	Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto:	
	September 6, 1984 to September 5, 1985	
	December 6, 1984 to December 5, 1985	
	September 5, 1985 to October 3, 1985	
	October 3, 1985 to November 7, 1985	
	November 7, 1985 to December 5, 1985	
	September 5, 1985 to December 5, 1985	3
2.	Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario:	
	June 6, 1985, September 5, 1985	
	and December 5, 1985	5
2a.	A 3-Store Average Price of Easily Comparable Items in 37 Ontario Communities as of December 5, 1985	6
3.	Percentage Change in Prices From Previous Quarters for All Centres:	
	March 7, 1985 to June 6, 1985	
	June 6, 1985 to September 5, 1985	
	September 5, 1985 to December 5, 1985	8
3a.	Percentage Change in Prices by Category for All Centres:	
	September, 1985 to December 1985	9

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 items monitored in Toronto rose by 2.4 percent during the quarter September to December 1985. Prices increased by 0.2 percent from a year earlier.

Monthly comparisons indicate that the total price of the 72 items increased by 1.7 percent between September and October, increased by 0.7 percent between October and November, and remained stable between November and December.

During the quarter, declines were noted in categories such as cereals and bread (3.6 percent); canned fruits (1.9 percent); canned vegetables (0.9 percent); canned juices (3.2 percent); dry groceries (4.2 percent); oils and fats (1.3 percent) and poultry (7.4 percent). These price declines were mainly due to December specials on items in each category.

Increases noted in categories such as dairy and eggs (1.2 percent); beverages (3.3 percent); jams and syrups (7.4 percent); other groceries (10.7 percent); beef (6.0 percent) lamb (9.8 percent) and pork (2.0 percent) were mainly due to the lifting of October specials which in some cases were augmented by increases in regular prices.

The increase in retail beef prices reflected higher prices paid to cattle producers, primarily due to lower slaughter rates in Canada and the U.S.

Pork supplies were similarly affected by lower slaughter rates. Higher producer prices for hogs in recent months as well as increased demands for ham and other selected cuts for Christmas and lifting of September specials, resulted in slightly higher retail pork prices.

Fresh vegetable prices increased as retail supplies of salad vegetables switched from local to higher-priced imports. These increases offset price declines on storables which resulted from increased production in 1985.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

OUTLOOK FOR FOOD PRICES IN 1986

Retail food prices, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) are expected to increase by 2% to 4% in 1986, compared to the increase of 2.9% in 1985. A number of factors will contribute to the 1986 food prices.

Lower feed costs to farmers triggered by expected lower feed grain and oil seed prices, will likely influence production and prices of poultry and dairy products.

Beef production is expected to be less than in 1985, as both the Canadian and U.S. slaughter rates are expected to decrease. The projected decline in beef supplies may put some upward pressure on beef prices but this may be partially offset by competition from other meats and possible adjustment of consumers' purchasing patterns.

Pork production will likely be near 1985 levels and poultry supplies are expected to be higher than 1985. Supplies of apple and storable vegetables are also expected to be higher. Moderate increases are forecast for marketing costs which include labour, processing, distribution and retailing.

Growth in demand for food is likely to moderate due to the expected slow increase in real personal disposable income.

These various effects are expected to keep the food price increase similar to 1985.

In 1986, retail coffee prices are expected to increase. Coffee prices on the world market have come under upward pressure due to expectations of crop reduction in 1986, triggered by last year's drought in Brazil.

Depreciation of the Canadian dollar and rising Canadian interest rates, if they persist, would increase the cost of imports, of financing production and holding inventories. This could put upward pressure on retail food.

Main Source: Agriculture Canada

Table 1: Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	Number of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison		Month to Month Comparison		Quarterly Comparison Sept. 5/85 to Dec. 5/85 % Change
		Sept. 6/84 to Sept. 5/85 % Change	Dec. 6/84 to Dec. 5/85 % Change	Sept. 5/85 to Oct. 3/85 % Change	Oct. 3/85 to Nov. 7/85 % Change	
Dairy and Eggs	5	0.8	-0.2	0.0	2.2	1.2
Cereals and Bread	7	-0.8	-2.9	0.3	2.0	-3.6
Beverages	5	-7.5	-6.9	11.3	-3.3	3.3
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	2	6.1	5.2	-3.2	1.3	-1.9
Canned Fruits	4	14.9	11.2	0.9	-6.5	-0.9
Canned Vegetables	4	8.9	6.4	2.0	-4.8	-3.2
Canned Juices	10	-4.3	11.2	-7.1	14.0	13.8
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	7	4.5	-6.1	-5.4	6.1	-4.2
Dry Groceries	4	-4.1	-2.5	4.1	-5.0	-1.3
Fats	3	-4.4	7.9	1.4	6.6	7.4
Jams and Syrups	6	-12.2	-3.7	10.9	-2.2	10.7
Other Groceries	6	-1.4	1.0	2.1	1.2	6.0
Meats	1	-8.9	0.0	6.9	2.7	9.8
Beef	5	-1.0	5.6	1.5	-4.7	2.0
Lamb (frozen)	3	7.3	5.2	-9.5	6.7	-7.4
Pork	72	-1.5	0.2	1.7	0.7	2.4
Poultry						
Total						

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO
AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored in December 1985 was lower than Toronto in six of the other seven southern Ontario communities surveyed. The differential between Toronto and three Southern Ontario communities narrowed since September, often reflecting a larger percentage increase in total price in these communities compared to Toronto. The differential widened in four other communities, often reflecting price improvements in relation to Toronto.

Northeastern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored was lower than Toronto in three of the eleven Northwestern Ontario communities surveyed. The differential between Toronto and seven Northwestern Ontario Communities narrowed since September often reflecting a smaller percentage increase in Toronto over the quarter, but reflecting price declines in communities such as Marathon and Sioux Lookout. The data indicated a decline of 5.5 percent for Marathon while Toronto increased by 2.4 percent. This represented a significant narrowing of the spread between these two communities, moving the differential to 2.3 percent in December from 10.9 percent in September.

The differential widened in three other communities and remained stable in one other.

Northeastern Ontario

Total prices were lower than Toronto in twelve of the eighteen Northeastern Ontario communities monitored. The differential narrowed in eight communities and widened in ten others, often reflecting price improvements in these communities.

A comparison of price differentials between Toronto and all other communities monitored can be found in Table 2.

Table 2a shows the average price of easily comparable items in 37 Ontario communities as of December 5, 1985.

Table 2: Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 34 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	June 6/85 % Difference From Toronto	Sept. 5/85 % Difference From Toronto	Dec. 5/85 % Difference From Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-3.5	-2.4	-2.9
Kingston	-2.0	-0.3	1.3
London	-3.5	-3.9	-4.5
Ottawa	-11.7	-7.5	-5.6
Owen Sound	-5.6	-4.1	-6.8
Peterborough	-5.4	-5.1	-5.0
Windsor	-5.2	-3.6	-1.3
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	2.3	7.5	5.6
Dryden	2.5	5.9	5.0
Fort Frances	-1.1	-2.1	-2.1
Geraldton	0.9	2.3	3.6
Ignace	2.8	7.2	8.3
Kenora	-1.8	-3.2	-2.1
Marathon	3.0	10.9	2.3
Rainy River	1.4	3.7	5.6
Red Lake	0.0	5.4	5.1
Sioux Lookout	5.7	8.3	4.3
Thunder Bay	-4.5	-2.1	-1.9
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	-3.0	0.8	-5.2
Chapleau	2.1	4.3	2.8
Cochrane	-3.5	2.0	-3.4
Elliot Lake	-5.5	-5.3	-3.0
Espanola	-6.2	-0.9	-2.2
Hearst	0.9	1.8	1.4
Iroquois Falls	-4.6	-1.5	-4.9
Kapuskasing	2.6	5.4	4.4
Kirkland Lake	-4.8	0.1	-5.4
Manitoulin Island	-0.5	6.7	4.9
Moosonee	8.8	15.6	12.5
New Liskeard	-3.7	-2.8	-2.1
North Bay	-2.4	-0.6	-5.8
Sault Ste. Marie	-8.1	-5.0	-5.5
Sturgeon Falls	-2.7	2.1	1.1
Sudbury	-6.8	-5.0	-8.0
Timmins	-5.2	-2.6	-4.4
Wawa	-6.8	-1.9	-6.4

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Table 2a: 3-Store Average* of Easily Comparable Food Items in 37 Ontario Communities, 1999-2000

DOLLARS												
Community	Butter 1 lb.	Milk 4L	Eggs 1 doz.	Dry Cereal 350 g.	Flour 3.5 kg.	Coffee Instant 10 oz.	Canned Corn 7 oz.	Tomato Juice 48 oz.	Bananas 1 lb.	Sugar 3 kg.	Sirloin Steak 1 lb.	Whole Chicken 1 lb.
Toronto	2.69	3.49S	1.41	1.59	4.07S	6.65S	.64S	1.59S	.55S	1.65S	4.99	1.45S
S. ONTARIO												
Hamilton	2.59	2.69S	1.37	1.35S	4.92S	6.82S	.75	1.32S	.52	1.52	5.39	1.35
Kingston	2.55	3.42S	1.44	1.59	5.08S	6.44	.73S	1.49S	.55	1.59	5.00	1.69
London	2.49	2.62S	1.29	1.45S	5.26	7.17	.75	1.52S	.55	1.12S	5.09	1.37
Ottawa	2.32S	2.42S	1.35	1.51	4.85S	6.15	.67S	1.39	.47	1.24	3.99	1.22
Owen Sound	2.34S	2.34S	1.14S	1.29S	4.54S	7.17S	.69S	.89S	.37S	1.34S	3.94	1.69
Peterborough	2.59	2.56S	1.29	1.16S	4.64	6.86S	.71	1.22S	.54	1.12	4.80	1.47
Windsor	2.71S	2.99S	1.37	1.55	5.26	7.07S	.75S	1.62S	.49S	1.25S	5.15	1.42
N.W. ONTARIO												
Atikokan	2.55	4.31	1.44	1.46	4.79	9.09	.72	1.81	.49S	1.94	4.84	1.54
Dryden	2.46	4.34	1.37	1.48	5.05	8.61	.73	1.51S	.45	1.79	5.09	1.77
Fort Frances	2.45	4.34	1.34	1.45	4.95S	8.11	.58	1.44	.29S	1.66	3.19	1.74
Geraldton	2.64	3.36	1.64	1.49	5.00	8.30	.72	1.37	.49	1.79	3.29	1.69
Ignace	2.67	4.20	1.40	1.51	5.55	8.33	.78	1.44S	.51S	1.47	5.40	1.79S
Kenora	2.36	4.24	1.31	1.27S	4.64	6.67	.67	1.27	.47	1.01S	5.35	1.68
Marathon	2.29S	3.34S	1.24S	1.53	5.17S	8.98	.54	1.28S	.45S	1.67	3.94S	1.45
Rainy River	2.87	4.64	1.59	1.52	5.21	7.89	.77	1.84	.49S	1.39	4.07	1.83
Red Lake	2.69	4.38	1.51	1.47	5.03	7.85S	.70S	1.54S	.38S	1.47	4.09S	1.66
St. Louis	2.54S	4.42	1.50	1.49	5.14	8.45	.76	1.87	.41S	1.64	4.20	1.69
St. Louis Lookout	2.54S	4.42	1.50	1.49	5.14	8.45	.76	1.87	.41S	1.64	4.20	1.69
Thunder Bay	2.29	2.69S	1.22S	1.47	4.59	7.86	.79	1.84	.54	1.91	3.59	1.74
N.E. ONTARIO												
Blind River	2.69S	3.89	1.39	1.39	5.23	7.49S	.75	1.39S	.49S	.99S	3.28S	.99S
Chapleau	2.58	4.72	1.48	1.63	5.02	8.73	.77	1.58S	.59	1.94	4.89	1.34S
Cochrane	2.72	2.39S	1.44	1.29S	4.79	8.65	.74	1.66	.44	1.36	3.78	1.51
Elliot Lake	2.42	2.99S	1.39	1.09S	5.13	6.86	.75	1.82	.54	1.48S	4.14	1.57
Espanola	2.54	2.69S	1.34	1.29	5.24	7.17	.76	1.49S	.51	1.19	4.14	1.29S
Hearst	2.52	3.89	1.58	1.34S	4.92S	8.09	.64S	1.79	.59	1.99	4.94	1.87
Iroquois Falls	2.50	3.19S	1.37	1.22	5.07	7.23	.76	1.19	.49S	1.38S	3.29	1.24S
Kapuskasing	2.66	4.13	1.48	1.58	4.58S	7.96	.75	1.49S	.69	1.59S	4.99	1.79
Kirkland Lake	2.60S	3.98	1.46S	1.29	4.90S	7.89	.77	1.43S	.55	1.25S	3.89S	1.52
Manitowlin Island	2.59	3.34	1.58	1.59	5.07	9.48	.68	1.61S	.49S	1.69	4.39	1.54
Moosonee	2.74	4.74S	1.84	1.69	5.03	8.55S	.59S	1.91	.62S	1.89	4.48	1.32
New Liskeard	2.57	2.99	1.49	1.29S	5.29	7.80	.77	1.59S	.59S	1.19S	4.14	1.39S
North Bay	2.32S	2.49S	1.29	1.32S	4.92S	6.74S	.69	1.69S	.54	1.61S	4.71	1.55S
Sault Ste. Marie	2.39	3.09	1.39	1.54	4.04S	7.61	.76	1.62	.55	1.12	4.42	1.59
Sturgeon Falls	2.49S	3.89	.99S	.99S	5.29	8.11	.75	1.79	.59	1.89	4.89	1.67
Sudbury	2.56	2.49S	1.29	1.41S	4.55S	6.65	.71	1.49S	.52	1.15S	4.15	1.52
Timmins	2.50	2.48S	1.39	1.32S	5.24	6.99S	.73	1.67S	.55	.89S	4.27	1.55
Wawa	2.29	3.98	1.49	1.29S	4.91	7.80	.75	.99S	.54S	.98S	3.28S	1.10S

Note: *Specials are included for all locations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES
FROM PREVIOUS QUARTERS FOR ALL CENTRES.

Between September and December 1985, the total price of the 72 items monitored declined in 11 of the 37 communities monitored. Total prices increased in 26 other communities. Decreases ranged from 0.4 percent in Moosonee to 5.5 percent in Marathon. Increases ranged from 0.5 percent in Timmins to 4.8 percent in Windsor.

Fresh fruits and vegetables registered notable increases in many communities and contributed significantly to price increases.

In many communities, lower prices of poultry, dairy and eggs as well as cereals and bread helped to moderate prices.

In Marathon, lower prices in categories such as dairy; cereals and bread; beverages; canned fruit, vegetables and juices; fresh fruits and vegetables; oils and fats; beef; pork and poultry contributed to the 5.5 percent decline over the quarter. Specials were noted on many items.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are shown in Table 3.

The percentage changes by category for the period September to December 1985 are available for all centres in Table 3a

Table 3: Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres

Community	Mar. 7/85 to June 6/85 % Difference	June 6/85 to Sept.5/85 % Difference	Sept.5/85 Dec. 5/85 % Difference
Toronto	1.4	-5.1	2.4
S. ONTARIO			
Hamilton	-0.7	-4.0	1.9
Kingston	1.3	-3.5	4.2
London	-2.5	-5.5	1.7
Ottawa	0.2	-0.6	4.5
Owen Sound	3.6	-3.6	-0.5
Peterborough	2.4	-4.8	2.6
Windsor	1.8	-3.5	4.8
N.W. ONTARIO			
Atikokan	3.7	-0.3	0.7
Dryden	5.8	-1.9	1.6
Fort Frances	2.1	-6.0	2.4
Geraldton	0.3	-3.7	3.7
Ignace	3.3	-1.0	3.9
Kenora	3.8	-6.4	3.5
Marathon	1.0	2.1	-5.5
Rainy River	3.1	-3.0	4.4
Red Lake	-0.4	0.0	2.9
Sioux Lookout	0.6	-2.8	-1.4
Thunder Bay	0.0	-2.7	2.7
N.E. ONTARIO			
Blind River	2.5	-1.4	-3.7
Chapleau	3.1	-3.1	1.0
Cochrane	0.4	0.3	-3.0
Elliot Lake	-5.0	-5.0	3.9
Espanola	1.1	0.1	1.1
Hearst	0.6	-4.2	2.0
Iroquois Falls	-0.6	-2.1	-1.1
Kapuskasing	6.4	-2.6	1.5
Kirkland Lake	-0.1	-0.1	-3.3
Manitoulin Island	-3.6	1.8	0.7
Moosonee	0.6	0.9	-0.4
New Liskeard	0.3	-4.3	3.2
North Bay	0.7	-3.3	-3.0
Sault Ste. Marie	2.4	-1.9	1.9
Sturgeon Falls	1.4	-0.5	1.4
Sudbury	3.6	-3.3	-0.7
Timmins	-0.5	-2.5	0.5
Wawa	-4.6	-0.2	-2.3

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Table 3a: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, September to December, 1985 (Percentage Change)

Community	% Change	Dairy & Eggs	Cereals & Bread	Beverages	Canned Fruits & Vegetables & Juices	Fresh Fruits & Veggies	Dry Groceries	Oils & Fats	Jams & Syrops	Other Groceries	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
Toronto	2.4	1.2	-3.6	3.3	-2.3	20.6	-4.2	-1.3	7.4	10.7	6.0	9.8	2.0	-7.4	2.7
S. ONTARIO															
Hamilton	1.9	0.9	2.8	-2.2	-2.4	29.6	7.6	-2.2	5.6	4.7	3.6	38.6	-9.4	-13.4	-2.2
Kingston	4.2	6.6	12.4	-3.1	-0.4	17.8	7.1	2.8	5.4	1.5	5.3	2.3	0.8	-0.4	2.6
London	1.7	1.0	4.0	5.5	-2.3	25.2	-4.7	3.5	6.0	6.6	-4.4	-3.4	-2.9	-13.1	-3.1
Ottawa	4.5	9.0	10.6	5.5	-4.4	25.1	-7.3	8.5	0.7	4.0	-3.1	-1.7	12.5	-3.9	2.5
Owen Sound	-0.5	-4.3	1.0	-2.8	-4.4	6.7	-1.6	1.8	-2.4	1.6	2.6	-4.4	9.5	-19.7	1.1
Peterborough	2.6	0.4	11.9	-0.8	-3.6	15.3	8.0	0.5	-1.0	3.0	-2.2	3.6	6.5	-6.4	0.7
Windsor	4.8	2.1	5.5	2.7	3.0	36.5	2.3	3.7	7.0	10.2	7.4	4.4	0.0	-20.9	0.3
N.W. ONTARIO															
Atikokan	0.7	-0.7	4.3	1.4	-0.5	1.1	1.6	-9.0	-0.7	-2.3	-7.3	0.0	20.7	-4.7	2.7
Dryden	1.6	-0.6	0.7	9.4	-2.9	-2.2	-2.8	1.5	2.6	0.9	4.9	19.7	-0.1	2.5	3.7
Fort Frances	2.4	-14.8	-5.9	16.8	11.2	13.1	-2.6	14.7	-10.4	4.2	27.2	0.0	-5.2	-15.7	4.8
Geraldton	3.7	0.0	2.5	3.3	2.6	33.6	3.5	-3.6	2.4	4.9	2.0	0.0	2.7	-1.3	1.5
Ignace	3.9	0.5	-0.3	-2.5	-2.2	0.9	13.6	1.9	-1.6	3.2	20.1	-9.4	7.0	30.3	13.8
Kenora	3.5	-1.9	5.0	3.7	2.5	30.2	-2.2	-1.6	9.7	-1.6	6.5	-21.4	5.5	0.5	2.9
Marathon	-5.5	-16.5	-2.4	-3.0	-6.0	-4.8	2.0	-3.7	0.1	-0.1	-8.8	16.7	-16.3	-2.2	-8.8
Rainy River	4.4	4.2	0.1	2.0	-0.4	12.6	-9.5	8.7	0.5	3.9	8.7	0.0	13.8	37.4	13.4
Red Lake	2.9	5.0	0.7	6.4	-4.8	30.8	12.2	-6.8	1.0	-3.9	6.7	-9.0	-3.2	-11.3	-1.0
Sioux Lookout	-1.4	0.6	-1.7	0.5	-8.4	1.2	-1.8	-5.0	-9.9	5.1	-5.2	0.0	5.5	3.1	-0.1
Thunder Bay	2.7	6.0	0.4	-2.7	-6.6	32.6	11.2	-6.3	-15.1	14.4	2.8	-29.5	10.3	-10.3	0.5
N.E. ONTARIO															
Blind River	-3.7	-5.5	3.5	-14.1	5.5	17.3	-3.6	-2.2	0.5	5.2	-12.3	0.0	-14.7	-15.5	-12.3
Chapleau	1.0	0.1	-4.1	-6.2	6.6	-3.3	2.2	-0.8	-0.5	1.2	13.4	26.2	4.6	-10.0	7.7
Cochrane	-3.0	-9.3	-0.1	-11.8	1.2	8.5	-7.4	0.3	-0.7	-7.4	7.7	0.3	-7.6	-0.7	0.1
Elliot Lake	3.9	-4.2	2.0	-3.1	3.4	14.9	11.3	0.0	-1.8	14.2	4.7	-15.3	6.0	25.8	6.2
Espanola	1.1	1.9	-1.1	-9.0	3.7	2.9	21.2	4.8	1.5	9.4	22.5	-9.4	-16.1	-1.0	-1.0
Hearst	2.0	5.1	-2.7	0.0	0.9	-4.0	6.4	1.5	0.0	0.5	7.9	11.8	-0.2	7.7	5.0
Iroquois Falls	-1.1	-6.4	-1.3	-9.9	3.0	11.2	10.5	-2.5	0.3	3.4	-7.0	-3.7	-3.9	11.2	-3.6
Kapuskasing	1.5	2.9	-4.5	0.3	4.7	8.1	-9.9	-3.1	3.7	6.5	-2.9	0.0	8.3	0.6	1.6
Kirkland Lake	-3.3	2.5	-2.0	4.7	-2.8	5.8	-6.2	1.8	-2.0	-4.2	-12.2	0.0	-13.8	-17.9	-12.9
Manitowlin Island	0.7	-5.5	2.3	4.5	1.4	4.4	9.4	0.2	15.2	0.4	-7.3	-16.7	-2.6	-6.8	-6.3
Moosonee	-0.4	1.0	0.1	-4.5	-0.9	9.8	-0.3	2.8	-3.2	0.1	0.1	-6.7	6.6	-16.6	-0.5
New Liskeard	3.2	3.0	-0.7	-2.3	-3.4	26.8	9.1	1.4	-0.1	5.9	3.5	2.1	7.7	-9.0	3.2
North Bay	-3.0	5.3	0.6	-6.0	2.2	8.1	-0.9	-4.1	1.1	-6.0	1.2	16.8	-13.4	-19.2	-6.7
Sault Ste. Marie	1.9	7.4	-5.4	0.9	3.5	9.9	-10.2	5.2	0.3	5.5	3.9	22.4	1.5	-1.6	3.5
Sturgeon Falls	1.4	11.1	-0.5	0.5	-2.2	17.6	-1.1	6.1	1.8	2.3	1.5	3.2	-13.4	-2.9	-4.5
Sudbury	-0.7	-7.5	-2.1	0.1	-1.6	23.4	-1.4	6.6	-3.9	-2.1	10.5	9.3	-10.5	-22.7	-10.5
Timmins	0.5	-8.2	-1.7	4.1	-1.3	9.1	8.8	-0.3	-3.9	2.8	-2.7	-15.0	5.8	-0.4	-0.3
Kawa	-2.3	-0.6	2.8	-0.5	-3.6	-4.6	7.6	13.5	-9.4	3.4	9.0	0.0	-32.9	-28.5	-13.7

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

The estimated cost of a Christmas dinner for four people is compared between December 1984 and December 1985 in Table 4. This includes a survey of baking needs and is based on a three-store average.

Table 4: Christmas Dinner, Year-To-Year Comparison

Dinner	<u>December</u>		<u>%</u> Change
	1984	1985	
Mushroom Soup - 10 oz. (2 tins)	1.28	1.33	
Garden Cocktail - 28 oz.	1.15	1.29	
Turkey Grade A Frozen - 12 lbs.	17.04	17.88	
Cranberry Sauce - 14 oz.	.99	1.19	
Stuffing Mix - Turkey - 8 oz.	1.19	1.36	
Bread - loaf	.78	.82	
Yam - 1 lb.	.62	.37	
Green Beans, fresh - 1 lb.	1.59	1.22	
Broccoli - bunch	1.42	1.29	
Christmas Plum Pudding - 15 oz.	2.29	2.62	
Coffee - 1 lb. bag	4.21	3.68	
2% Milk - 1 quart (1.136 litres)	1.02	.99	
Wine - Ontario	<u>4.75</u>	<u>5.45</u>	
Dinner Total	38.33	39.49	3.03%
<u>Baking Needs</u>			
Raisins - 15 oz. (425 gr.)	1.44	1.68	
Almonds, sliced - 100 gr.	1.61	1.52	
Walnut Pieces - 100 gr.	1.22	1.22	
Butter - 1 lb.	2.59	2.69	
Candied Fruits:			
Mixed Peel, diced - 8 oz.	1.64	1.53	
Cherries Red & Green - 8 oz.	2.89	2.69	
Flour - 2.5 kg.	2.52	2.32	
Sugar Granulated - 2 kg.	1.99	1.66	
Spices:			
Ginger ground - 32 gr.	1.32	1.58	
Allspice ground - 32 gr.	1.75	1.82	
Cinnamon ground - 32 gr.	1.40	1.48	
Brandy, Ontario - 13 ozs.	7.10	7.80	
Eggs - 1 doz.	<u>1.46</u>	<u>.99</u>	
Baking Total	28.93	28.98	0.17%
Total Dinner & Baking	<u>67.26</u>	<u>68.47</u>	<u>1.80%</u>

NOTE: Specials are included in three-store average.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

. SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 Ontario communities were monitored. In August, 1981, Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 percent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 55 percent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores where possible. In some small communities only two stores could be monitored. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability are often encountered in some of the more remote and smaller communities, appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size. Staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

- . Dairy and Eggs;
- . Cereals and Bread;
- . Canned Fruits and Vegetables (including canned juices);
- . Fresh Fruits and Vegetables;
- . Dry Groceries;
- . Oils and Fats;
- . Jams and Syrups;
- . Other Groceries; and
- . Meats (including beef, frozen lamb, pork and poultry).

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. Other calculations included a comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres as well as percentage changes in prices from previous months for all the centres.

Report #47

Food Price
Monitoring Program



Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations



March 1986

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT 47

MARCH, 1986

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

March, 1986

ISSN 0228-0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	3
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	6
FOOD PRICE OUTLOOK 1986	9
APPENDICES: Scope of Monitoring & Methodology	10

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>		<u>Page</u>
1.	Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto:	
	December 6, 1984 to December 5, 1985 March 7, 1985 to March 6, 1986 December 5, 1985 to January 8, 1986 January 8, 1986 to February 5, 1986 February 8, 1986 to March 6, 1986 December 5, 1985 to March 6, 1986	2
2.	Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario:	
	September 5, 1985, December 5, 1985 and March 6, 1986	4
2a.	A 3-Store Average Price of Easily Comparable Items in 37 Ontario Communities as of March 6, 1986	5
3.	Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres:	
	June 6, 1985 to September 5, 1985 September 5, 1985 to December 5, 1985 December 5, 1985 to March 6, 1986	7
3a.	Percentage Change in Prices by Category for All Centres:	
	December, 1985 to March, 1986	8

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 items monitored in Toronto rose by 3.8 percent during the quarter December to March 1986. Prices increased by 2.3 percent from a year earlier.

Monthly comparisons indicate that the total price of the 72 items increased by 2.2 percent between December and January, declined by 1.1 percent between January and February and increased by 2.7 percent between February and March.

During the quarter, declines were noted in categories such as dairy and eggs (4.5 percent); fresh fruit and vegetables (2.8 percent); other groceries (0.2 percent); beef (2.7 percent); lamb (17.5 percent) and poultry (2.4 percent). These price declines were mainly due to March specials on items in each category.

All other categories registered increases ranging between 1.8 percent for canned vegetables and canned juices, respectively, and 26.9 percent for beverages.

The substantial increase in the beverages category reflected increases in the price of coffee, triggered by the severe drought which damaged the 1986-87 coffee crop in Brazil and pushed up world coffee prices.

Increases in the price of bakery products and cereals reflected increases in the price of bread wheat and durum wheat during the January to March period.

Price increases in the other categories were mainly due to the lifting of December specials which offset March specials.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	Number of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison		Month to Month Comparison			Quarterly Comparison
		Dec. 5/84 to Dec. 5/85 % Change	Mar. 7/85 to Mar. 6/86 % Change	Dec. 5/85 to Jan. 8/86 % Change	Jan. 8/86 to Feb. 5/86 % Change	Feb. 5/86 to Mar. 6/86 % Change	
Dairy and Eggs	5	-0.2	-3.4	-3.2	-2.5	1.2	-4.5
Cereals and Bread	7	-2.9	5.2	3.8	4.8	0.8	9.7
Beverages	5	-6.9	19.0	7.5	6.6	10.7	26.9
Canned Fruits and Vegetables							
Canned Fruits	2	5.2	7.0	-1.0	4.0	2.5	5.6
Canned Vegetables	4	11.2	12.5	3.3	-10.4	10.0	1.8
Canned Juices	4	6.4	2.0	0.4	2.1	0.4	1.8
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	11.2	-6.4	11.4	-12.2	-0.6	-2.8
Dry Groceries	7	-6.1	-0.4	6.3	-10.7	8.8	3.3
Oils and Fats	4	-2.5	1.4	5.2	-5.5	4.4	3.8
Jams and Syrups	3	7.9	1.9	-4.7	7.7	0.8	3.4
Other Groceries	6	-3.7	-1.2	0.1	-2.2	1.9	-0.2
Meats							
Beef	6	1.0	-0.2	-1.1	-3.7	2.3	-2.7
Lamb (frozen)	1	0.0	-11.9	-8.9	0.0	-9.4	-17.5
Pork	5	5.6	-1.7	-1.0	1.9	-3.3	-2.4
Poultry	3	5.2	-1.6	4.4	3.5	-3.9	3.8
Total	72	0.2	2.3	2.2	-1.1	2.7	3.8

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO
AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored in March, 1986 was lower than Toronto in the seven other Southern Ontario communities surveyed. The differential between Toronto and four Southern Ontario communities widened since December 1985 reflecting price improvements in relation to Toronto. The differential narrowed in three other Southern Ontario communities, reflecting a larger percentage increase in total price in these communities compared to Toronto.

Northwestern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored was lower than Toronto in five of the eleven Northwestern Ontario communities surveyed. The differential between Toronto and seven Northwestern Ontario communities narrowed since December often reflecting price improvements in these communities in relation to Toronto. The differential widened in four other communities.

Northeastern Ontario

Total prices were lower than Toronto in fourteen of the eighteen Northeastern Ontario communities monitored. The differential narrowed in eight communities and widened in ten others, often reflecting price improvements in these communities.

A comparison of price differentials between Toronto and all other communities monitored can be found in Table 2.

Table 2a shows the average price of easily comparable items in 37 Ontario communities as of March 6, 1985.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	Sept. 5/85 % Difference from Toronto	Dec. 5/85 % Difference from Toronto	Mar. 6/86 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-2.4	-2.9	-4.1
Kingston	-0.3	1.3	-1.3
London	-3.9	-4.5	-2.6
Ottawa	-7.5	-5.6	-6.8
Owen Sound	-4.1	-6.8	-5.7
Peterborough	-5.1	-5.0	-2.7
Windsor	-3.6	-1.3	-4.9
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	7.5	5.6	3.2
Dryden	5.9	5.0	-1.4
Fort Frances	-2.1	-2.1	-4.5
Geraldton	2.3	3.6	-0.4
Ignace	7.2	8.3	3.3
Kenora	-3.2	-2.1	-6.7
Marathon	10.9	2.3	3.1
Rainy River	3.7	5.6	3.2
Red Lake	5.4	5.1	0.8
Sioux Lookout	8.3	4.3	2.4
Thunder Bay	-2.1	-1.9	-6.8
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	0.8	-5.2	-5.8
Chapleau	4.3	2.8	1.5
Cochrane	2.0	-3.4	0.3
Elliot Lake	-5.3	-3.0	-6.5
Espanola	-0.9	-2.2	-4.2
Hearst	1.8	1.4	-3.5
Iroquois Falls	-1.5	-4.9	-6.9
Kapuskasing	5.4	4.4	-0.8
Kirkland Lake	0.1	-5.4	-6.9
Manitoulin Island	6.7	4.9	3.1
Moosonee	15.6	12.5	10.2
New Liskeard	-2.8	-2.1	-4.4
North Bay	-0.6	-5.8	-3.8
Sault Ste. Marie	-5.0	-5.5	-6.2
Sturgeon Falls	2.1	1.1	-4.1
Sudbury	-5.0	-8.0	-4.6
Timmins	-2.6	-4.4	-5.0
Wawa	-1.9	-6.4	-3.7

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Table 2a: 3-Store Average* of Easily Comparable Food Items in 37 Ontario Communities, March 1986

Community	Butter 1 lb.	Milk 4L	Eggs 1 doz.	Dry Cereal 350 g.	Flour 3.5 kg.	Coffee Instant 10 oz.	Canned Corn 7 oz.	Dollars	Tomato Juice 48 oz.	Bananas 1 lb.	Sugar 3 kg.	Sirloin Steak 1 lb.	Whole Chicken 1 lb.
Toronto	2.69	2.69S	1.28S	1.51S	5.27	10.32	.75		1.85	.65S	1.65S	4.99	1.59
S. ONTARIO													
Hamilton	2.33	2.76S	1.28S	1.67	5.45	8.98	.71S		1.89	.65	1.39	4.47S	1.59S
Kingston	2.55	2.99S	1.46	1.84	5.40	8.74	.76		1.85	.69	1.39S	4.15	1.49
London	2.62	2.69S	1.09S	1.67	5.39	9.99	.75		1.85	.62	1.19	3.82S	1.59
Ottawa	2.63	2.29S	1.29	1.56	5.77	7.73	.71		1.78	.57	.99	4.05S	1.35S
Owen Sound	2.39S	1.99S	1.29	1.52S	5.50	9.30	.79		1.59S	.54S	1.09S	4.22	1.48S
Peterborough	2.65	2.69S	1.29	1.54	4.71	9.77	.75		1.12S	.62	1.12S	4.46	1.81
Windsor	2.59	2.79S	1.23S	1.70	5.19	8.94S	.76S		1.89	.62	.95S	4.02S	1.62
N.W. ONTARIO													
Atikokan	2.55	4.31	1.52	1.53	5.10	9.09	.75		1.39S	.74	1.14S	3.39	1.75
Dryden	2.50	4.31	1.36S	1.48	5.05	8.65	.75		1.12S	.50S	1.60S	3.98S	1.65
Fort Frances	2.45	4.34	1.34	1.45	5.50	9.08	.64		1.44	.34	1.66	3.27	1.74
Geraldton	2.66	3.36	1.64	1.49	5.07	8.30	.72		1.37	.62	1.69	3.74	1.47
Ignace	2.75	4.20	1.40	1.51	5.55	9.57	.80		1.82	.71	1.53	4.44	1.57
Kenora	2.38	4.24	1.30	1.27S	4.73	6.34	.60S		1.27	.57	1.13S	4.55S	1.81
Marathon	2.59	2.99S	1.39S	1.49	5.10	9.98	.77		1.57	.79	1.51S	4.99	1.33
Rainy River	2.89	4.64	1.59	1.53	5.17	8.98	.74		1.82	.69	1.62	4.07	1.61
Red Lake	2.64	4.27	1.49	1.49	4.95	8.85	.74		1.44S	.47S	1.34	5.18S	1.85
Sioux Lookout	2.61	4.42	1.47	1.49	5.14	8.40	.77		1.44S	.65	1.54	4.62S	1.66
Thunder Bay	2.39S	2.69S	1.28S	1.47	5.09	8.23	.79		.94S	.59	1.84	4.14	1.44S
N.E. ONTARIO													
Blind River	2.39	2.69S	1.29	1.39S	5.23	9.99	.77		.99S	.59S	1.29	3.59	.99S
Chapleau	2.42S	4.72	1.48	1.58	5.59	10.36	.79		1.52S	.74	1.99	4.04	1.59
Cochrane	2.69	3.28S	1.54	1.49	5.36	10.61	.75		1.76	.54	1.28	3.94	1.34
Elliot Lake	2.39S	2.84S	1.29	1.34	4.93	9.60	.72		1.84	.69	1.29S	4.74S	1.24S
Espanola	2.52	2.69S	1.39	1.57	5.58	8.74	.79		1.59	.64	1.04S	4.29	1.13S
Hearst	2.42S	3.89	1.58	1.39S	5.45	8.36	.73		1.79	.70	1.29	4.94	1.19S
Iroquois Falls	2.49	4.01	1.40	1.46	5.27	8.80S	.74		1.37S	.59	1.39S	3.43S	1.23S
Kapuskasing	2.66	4.13	1.48	1.66	4.74S	8.90	.77		1.38S	.74	1.19	4.99	1.55S
Kirkland Lake	2.58	3.18	1.45	1.49	5.65	8.73	.78		1.75	.65	1.25S	3.25	1.15
Manitoulin Island	2.64	3.89	1.58	1.59	5.53	10.65	.81		1.31S	.59	1.89	5.39	1.49
Moosonee	2.74	5.00	1.69S	1.69	5.47	10.06	.65		1.67S	.75	2.05	3.91S	1.50S
New Liskeard	2.69	2.69S	1.49	1.57S	5.59	7.80	.78		1.86	.64	1.88	3.29S	.99S
North Bay	2.55S	2.39S	1.09S	1.57S	5.49	9.94	.75		1.65S	.65	1.49	4.96	1.71
Sault Ste. Marie	2.49	2.69S	1.42	1.57	5.27	9.23	.79		1.75	.62	1.19S	3.49	1.52
Sturgeon Falls	1.75S	2.54S	1.41	1.67	5.49	8.61	.59		1.89	.51S	1.39S	3.74	1.14S
Sudbury	2.49	2.69S	1.19	1.62	5.20	9.94	.65S		1.85	.62	1.39	4.52	1.59
Timmins	2.39	2.69S	1.52	1.47	5.70	8.80	.77		1.84	.65	1.29	3.52S	1.19
Wawa	2.34S	3.98	1.48	.99S	4.96	9.17	.75		.99S	.59S	1.29	3.58	1.54

Note: Specials are included for all locations

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES
FROM PREVIOUS QUARTERS FOR ALL CENTRES.

Between December 1985 and March 1986, the total price of the 72 items monitored declined in 9 of the 37 communities monitored. Total prices increased in 27 other communities and remained stable in 1 other.

Decreases ranged from 0.3 percent in Geraldton to 2.6 percent in Dryden. Increases ranged from 1.0 percent in Kingston and Elliot Lake to 7.6 percent in Sudbury.

In many communities higher prices in categories such as beverages, cereal and bread, jams and syrup contributed significantly to price increases.

London and Peterborough in the South and Cochrane, North Bay and Sudbury in the North, registered significantly higher increases in the beverages category than other communities. This was mainly responsible for their larger percentage change from the previous quarter.

The quarterly increase in Wawa reflected notable increases in pork and poultry which were mainly due to movements from artificially low special prices in December to higher regular prices in March.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are shown in Table 3.

The percentage changes by category for the period December 1985 to March 1986 are available for all centres in Table 3a.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Quarter
for All Centres

Community	June 6/85 to Sept.5/85 % Difference	Sept.5/85 to Dec.5/85 % Difference	Dec. 5/85 to Mar. 6/86 % Difference
Toronto	-5.1	2.4	3.8
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-4.0	1.9	2.5
Kingston	-3.5	4.2	1.0
London	-5.5	1.7	5.9
Ottawa	-0.6	4.5	2.4
Owen Sound	-3.6	-0.5	5.0
Peterborough	-4.8	2.6	6.2
Windsor	-3.5	4.8	0.0
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	-0.3	0.7	1.4
Dryden	-1.9	1.6	-2.6
Fort Frances	-6.0	2.4	1.2
Geraldton	-3.7	3.7	-0.3
Ignace	-1.0	3.9	-1.0
Kenora	-6.4	3.5	-1.1
Marathon	2.1	-5.5	4.6
Rainy River	-3.0	4.4	1.4
Red Lake	0.0	2.9	-0.4
Sioux Lookout	-2.8	-1.4	1.8
Thunder Bay	-2.7	2.7	-1.4
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	-1.4	-3.7	3.2
Chapleau	-3.1	1.0	2.4
Cochrane	0.3	-3.0	7.8
Elliot Lake	-5.0	3.9	1.0
Espanola	0.1	1.1	1.7
Hearst	-4.2	2.0	-1.2
Iroquois Falls	-2.1	-1.1	1.6
Kapuskasing	-2.6	1.5	-1.5
Kirkland Lake	-0.1	-3.3	2.1
Manitoulin Island	1.8	0.7	1.9
Moosonee	0.9	-0.4	1.6
New Liskeard	-4.3	3.2	1.3
North Bay	-3.3	-3.0	5.9
Sault Ste. Marie	-1.9	1.9	3.0
Sturgeon Falls	-0.5	1.4	-1.6
Sudbury	-3.3	-0.7	7.6
Timmins	-2.5	0.5	3.1
Wawa	-0.2	-2.3	6.8

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

Table 3a: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, December 1985 to March 1986 (Percentage Change)

Community	% Change	Dairy & Eggs		Cereals & Bread	Beverages		Canned Fruits, Vegetables & Juices		Fresh Fruit & Veg.		Dry Gro-ceries		Oils & Fats		Jams & Syrups		Other Gro-ceries		Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
Toronto	3.8	-4.5	9.72	26.9	26.9	2.6	-2.8	3.3	3.8	3.4	-0.2	-2.7	-17.5	-2.4	3.8	-2.7	-2.4	-2.7	-2.7	-17.5	-2.4	3.8	-2.7
S. ONTARIO																							
Hamilton	2.5	-0.5	6.1	15.8	15.8	1.4	-5.3	2.8	2.9	-0.7	6.8	-4.6	-21.2	2.3	2.1	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-4.6	-21.2	2.3	2.1	-2.4
Kingston	1.0	-1.9	2.2	12.9	12.9	4.9	1.5	3.5	1.3	-5.9	-5.1	-3.9	-19.2	1.7	-8.3	-3.5	-3.5	-3.5	-3.9	-19.2	1.7	-8.3	-3.5
London	5.9	4.7	6.7	25.2	25.2	8.8	-3.0	13.0	0.3	2.3	3.8	-0.5	-12.1	-2.9	5.7	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3	-0.5	-12.1	-2.9	5.7	-1.3
Ottawa	2.4	4.9	-5.9	13.8	13.8	3.9	-2.4	8.8	7.8	2.5	0.8	-2.4	-7.6	0.1	-9.6	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9	-2.4	-7.6	0.1	-9.6	-0.9
Owen Sound	5.0	3.3	12.9	10.8	10.8	-1.1	7.7	5.6	6.2	15.7	8.1	-0.6	-14.8	-3.2	-2.5	-2.5	-2.5	-2.5	-0.6	-14.8	-3.2	-2.5	-2.5
Peterborough	6.2	2.6	8.2	24.2	24.2	1.8	4.7	-5.1	6.2	7.5	2.7	5.3	-9.3	4.4	8.7	4.4	4.4	4.4	5.3	-9.3	4.4	8.7	4.4
Windsor	0.0	-0.4	-0.4	18.5	18.5	1.8	-9.9	-1.2	-2.2	0.9	2.0	-12.7	-10.0	-7.6	18.6	-7.0	-7.0	-7.0	-12.7	-10.0	-7.6	18.6	-7.0
N.W. ONTARIO																							
Atikokan	1.4	1.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	-2.1	3.9	3.6	12.0	3.5	2.9	-6.0	2.1	8.1	-9.2	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-6.0	2.1	8.1	-9.2	-0.5
Dryden	-2.6	-1.6	-0.7	4.1	4.1	0.5	7.6	5.9	-3.1	3.7	-13.3	-6.1	-8.6	-14.2	-29.4	-12.6	-12.6	-12.6	-6.1	-8.6	-14.2	-29.4	-12.6
Fort Frances	1.2	2.9	3.0	10.7	10.7	-0.4	-1.9	0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.0	-8.1	0.0	2.2	1.3	-2.6	-2.6	-2.6	-8.1	0.0	2.2	1.3	-2.6
Geraldton	-0.3	-0.1	1.2	-3.7	-3.7	-5.7	-13.6	-3.8	4.6	-0.9	-0.9	7.6	0.0	10.6	1.1	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.6	0.0	10.6	1.1	7.2
Ignace	-1.0	0.0	2.6	10.3	10.3	-0.5	-13.8	1.5	-2.2	0.8	2.4	-9.2	-3.2	-5.6	-9.1	-7.5	-7.5	-7.5	-9.2	-3.2	-5.6	-9.1	-7.5
Kenora	-1.1	1.9	2.2	3.4	3.4	-3.0	-22.9	11.8	-4.6	0.7	0.3	7.1	-22.9	5.3	0.3	-2.6	-2.6	-2.6	7.1	-22.9	5.3	0.3	-2.6
Marathon	4.6	5.4	0.3	11.1	11.1	3.6	8.6	0.1	4.0	1.4	0.3	7.9	-9.5	14.8	-12.1	5.5	5.5	5.5	7.9	-9.5	14.8	-12.1	5.5
Rainy River	1.4	3.0	3.0	6.2	6.2	-1.2	-3.9	12.7	0.4	1.5	0.3	-6.0	0.0	-3.2	-1.0	-3.8	-3.8	-3.8	-6.0	0.0	-3.2	-1.0	-3.8
Red Lake	-0.4	-5.0	-2.4	6.5	6.5	-1.8	-5.0	-9.5	7.1	0.0	3.2	7.9	-8.0	2.8	7.8	5.0	5.0	5.0	7.9	-8.0	2.8	7.8	5.0
Stouy Lookout	1.8	0.7	1.1	7.2	7.2	7.3	1.0	-4.3	-17.1	5.1	-0.1	-0.3	8.0	12.8	3.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	-0.3	8.0	12.8	3.2	5.3
Thunder Bay	-1.4	-3.5	6.5	11.4	11.4	-3.4	-11.7	-18.1	5.0	1.6	2.7	9.7	8.4	-10.1	-19.9	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	9.7	8.4	-10.1	-19.9	-2.4
N.E. ONTARIO																							
Blind River	3.2	-8.3	3.7	21.8	21.8	-10.7	5.1	5.0	2.5	1.6	-14.1	10.1	0.0	19.9	-12.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	-11.2	0.0	19.9	-12.2	10.2
Chapleau	2.4	0.8	6.6	12.3	12.3	2.8	4.7	4.4	2.7	2.5	-0.4	-11.2	-10.4	0.7	6.6	-4.8	-4.8	-4.8	-11.2	-10.4	0.7	6.6	-4.8
Cochrane	7.8	8.0	5.8	26.8	26.8	4.5	1.6	6.8	-3.5	1.7	7.7	4.7	-0.3	8.5	4.4	5.6	5.6	5.6	4.7	-0.3	8.5	4.4	5.6
Elliot Lake	1.0	4.8	2.5	21.7	21.7	-1.5	-3.0	-0.9	-4.5	4.9	9.3	4.8	-6.0	-3.1	-35.1	-5.0	-5.0	-5.0	4.8	-6.0	-3.1	-35.1	-5.0
Espanola	1.7	0.2	8.6	8.9	8.9	0.6	14.6	-5.0	4.6	0.7	-1.9	-1.9	-31.5	-0.6	-19.7	-2.0	-2.0	-2.0	7.7	-31.5	-0.6	-19.7	-2.0
Hearts	-1.2	-5.0	7.2	3.3	3.3	-0.9	14.5	-4.0	-1.6	9.9	-0.2	-1.4	-29.9	-9.5	-27.7	-10.2	-10.2	-10.2	-1.4	-29.9	-9.5	-27.7	-10.2
Iroquois Falls	1.6	6.0	4.8	12.5	12.5	-7.9	-7.4	-5.4	-0.6	8.3	6.9	-2.8	0.0	-0.4	1.0	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-2.8	0.0	-0.4	1.0	-1.2
Kapuskasing	-1.5	0.1	8.2	3.9	3.9	-7.1	6.1	-7.2	1.1	2.8	-3.0	3.8	-13.2	-15.3	-7.4	-7.4	-7.4	-7.4	3.8	-13.2	-15.3	-7.4	-7.4
Kirkland Lake	2.1	2.4	11.0	3.7	3.7	1.9	4.2	-1.2	7.3	1.5	-10.4	-8.0	21.7	-9.4	-25.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	-8.0	21.7	-9.4	-25.7	0.3
Manitoulin Island	1.9	0.9	4.2	6.4	6.4	-2.9	-3.0	2.3	-14.0	-10.4	3.3	9.2	-11.2	3.9	0.0	8.3	8.3	8.3	9.2	-11.2	3.9	0.0	8.3
Moosonee	1.6	1.9	3.5	9.2	9.2	-1.6	-1.1	4.4	1.2	6.8	0.0	-2.3	-17.9	1.3	-9.0	-2.9	-2.9	-2.9	-2.3	-17.9	1.3	-9.0	-2.9
New Liskeard	1.3	0.1	9.6	10.4	10.4	1.9	-2.7	9.6	-1.3	3.0	-3.1	6.0	-4.2	-5.5	-14.4	-6.7	-6.7	-6.7	6.0	-4.2	-5.5	-14.4	-6.7
North Bay	5.9	2.3	9.3	25.0	25.0	-1.3	2.1	1.2	0.0	0.4	0.9	0.7	7.6	12.6	0.6	5.5	5.5	5.5	0.7	7.6	12.6	0.6	5.5
Sault Ste. Marie	3.0	3.9	13.6	8.1	8.1	5.4	4.0	13.6	-6.3	1.3	6.2	-9.4	-20.9	-2.3	-1.8	-6.7	-6.7	-6.7	-9.4	-20.9	-2.3	-1.8	-6.7
Sturgeon Falls	-1.6	-15.4	6.8	2.8	2.8	-3.8	-3.2	7.6	-2.3	5.5	2.0	-9.3	-9.8	8.8	-20.6	-4.3	-4.3	-4.3	-9.3	-9.8	8.8	-20.6	-4.3
Sudbury	7.6	7.9	11.0	30.3	30.3	0.9	4.5	10.2	5.1	-1.1	4.0	3.5	-6.8	0.8	-2.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	3.5	-6.8	0.8	-2.1	1.1
Timmins	3.1	3.5	7.3	7.6	7.6	1.6	6.1	4.0	-0.1	0.6	-1.0	-0.3	1.7	6.4	-16.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.3	1.7	6.4	-16.4	0.1
Wawa	6.8	4.2	-0.1	10.3	10.3	-0.5	-0.7	1.5	2.4	8.5	-7.6	3.9	0.0	58.7	36.8	25.4	25.4	25.4	3.9	0.0	58.7	36.8	25.4

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

OUTLOOK FOR FOOD PRICES IN 1986

The December issue of this report indicated that retail food prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index was forecast to increase by 2 to 4 percent in 1986. This forecast remains unchanged despite some changes in commodity and macroeconomic forecasts.

Except for coffee, significant price movements are not expected in the major food groups during the first six months of 1986. Retail coffee prices have already begun to show sharp increases, following the increase in world coffee bean prices. Brazil, the world's largest producer and exporter of coffee, with about 1/3 of the world's supply, has experienced a severe crop damaging drought. Consequently, it is estimated that the 1986-87 crop will be 50 percent lower than 1985-86. World coffee prices are expected to remain under upward pressure until late 1986 when the prospects for Brazil's 1987-88 crop are known.

Meat and poultry prices are not expected to show much change. Beef and pork production are expected to be slightly below 1985 during the first half of 1986, but larger supplies of poultry will help offset the reduction in red meat production.

Prices of storable vegetables are expected to increase seasonally throughout the first six months as stocks are depleted.

Movement of fresh fruit and salad vegetable prices will remain dependent on supplies from major winter production areas in the U.S. and Mexico and the climatic conditions in these areas.

Marketing costs which include labour, packaging energy and transportation are expected to increase slightly from 1985 level.

Exchange rates and interest rates will continue to influence food prices. The effects of exchange rates are felt through their impact on the price of traded goods and services. Interest rates influence the cost of food through their effects on the cost of financing production and holding inventories.

Main Source: Agriculture Canada

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 Ontario communities were monitored. In August, 1981, Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 percent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 55 percent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores where possible. In some small communities only two stores could be monitored. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability are often encountered in some of the more remote and smaller communities, appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size. Staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

- . Dairy and Eggs;
- . Cereals and Bread;
- . Canned Fruits and Vegetables (including canned juices);
- . Fresh Fruits and Vegetables;
- . Dry Groceries;
- . Oils and Fats;
- . Jams and Syrups;
- . Other Groceries; and
- . Meats (including beef, frozen lamb, pork and poultry).

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. Other calculations included a comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres as well as percentage changes in prices from previous months for all the centres.

CA20N
CC
-F56

Report #48

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



June 1986

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT 48

JUNE, 1986

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

June, 1986

ISSN 0228-0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES.....	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES.....	3
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES.....	6
APPENDICES: Scope of Monitoring & Methodology.....	9

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto:	
March 7, 1985 to March 6, 1986	
June 6, 1985 to June 5, 1986	
March 6, 1986 to April 2, 1986	
April 2, 1986 to May 8, 1986	
May 8, 1986 to June 5, 1986	
March 6, 1986 to June 5, 1986.....	2
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario:	
December 5, 1985, March 6, 1986 and June 5, 1986.....	4
2a. A 3-Store Average Price of Easily Comparable Items in 37 Ontario Communities as of June 5, 1986.....	5
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres:	
September 5, 1985 to December 5, 1985	
December 5, 1985 to March 6, 1986	
March 6, 1986 to June 5, 1986.....	7
3a. Percentage Change in Prices by Category for All Centres:	
March 1986 to June 1986.....	8

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 items monitored in Toronto increased by 0.8 percent during the quarter March to June 1986. Prices increased by 1.7 percent from a year earlier.

On a monthly basis the total price declined by 0.7 percent between March and April, increased by 2.0 percent between April and May and declined by 0.4 percent between May and June.

During the quarter, price declines were noted in categories such as canned vegetables (2.3 percent); canned juices (2.7 percent); dry groceries (6.6 percent); jams and syrup (2.7 percent) and pork (3.2 percent).

These price declines were mainly due to the featuring of specials on items in these groups during the June monitoring.

All other categories registered increases ranging between 1.2 percent for dairy and eggs and 21.2 percent for lamb.

The 'dairy and eggs' increase reflected the lifting of a March special on eggs as well as a 2.5 cents per litre increase in the retail price of fluid milk. This retail milk price increase, which moved the price of the popular 2% 4L bag from \$2.69 to \$2.79, was triggered by the April 14 dairy increase of 3 cents per litre in the wholesale price of fluid milk.

The substantial increase in the lamb category reflected the lifting of March specials on lamb.

The cereal and bread category showed an increase of 4.4 percent mainly due to the lifting of March specials on some cereal and bakery products and increases in the regular price of others which offset the effects of June specials on bread.

The beverages category showed an increase of 2.4 percent mainly due to increases in coffee prices. Retail coffee prices have been rising in recent months due to an increase in world coffee bean prices triggered by the Brazilian drought late last year.

Poultry prices showed an increase of 4.0 largely due to increases in the price of chicken and turkey.

Price increases in all other categories were mainly due to the lifting of March specials which offset the effects of June specials.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	Number of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison		Month to Month Comparison				Quarterly Comparison March 6/86 to June 5/86 % Change
		Mar. 7/85 to Mar. 6/86 % Change	June 6/85 to June 5/86 % Change	Mar. 6/86 to Apr. 2/86 % Change	Apr. 2/86 to May 8/86 % Change	May 8/86 to June 5/86 % Change		
Dairy and Eggs	5	-3.4	-4.0	-0.5	2.4	-0.6	1.2	
Cereals and Bread	7	5.2	5.7	1.1	0.3	2.9	4.4	
Beverages	5	19.0	18.6	-2.8	3.4	1.9	2.4	
Canned Fruits and Vegetables								
Canned Fruits	2	7.0	17.1	3.1	-5.1	6.7	4.3	
Canned Vegetables	4	12.5	11.0	-1.7	3.9	-4.3	-2.3	
Canned Juices	4	2.0	-1.2	-5.5	4.1	-1.1	-2.7	
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	-6.4	-4.0	6.8	4.1	-10.0	0.1	
Dry Groceries	7	-0.4	10.3	3.1	1.7	-10.9	-6.6	
Oils and Fats	4	1.4	2.4	-2.9	-1.1	6.4	2.2	
Jams and Syrups	3	1.9	-0.9	-13.6	15.4	-2.5	-2.7	
Other Groceries	6	-1.2	2.6	2.5	-5.8	7.0	3.2	
Meats								
Beef	6	-0.2	-3.4	2.9	4.1	0.7	1.8	
Lamb (frozen)	1	-11.9	17.5	21.2	0.0	0.0	21.2	
Pork	5	-1.7	-6.0	-1.1	-1.8	-0.3	-3.2	
Poultry	3	-1.6	4.2	-0.7	4.8	0.0	4.0	
Total	72	2.3	1.7	-0.7	2.0	-0.4	0.8	

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO
AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored in June, 1986 was lower than Toronto in the seven other Southern Ontario communities surveyed. The differential between Toronto and six Southern Ontario communities narrowed, reflecting a larger percentage increase in total price in these communities compared to Toronto. The differential widened in one other community reflecting price improvements in relation to Toronto.

Northwestern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items was lower than Toronto in four of the eleven Northwestern Ontario communities surveyed. The differential between Toronto and nine Northwestern Ontario communities widened, sometimes reflecting price improvements in these communities in relation to Toronto. The differential narrowed in two other communities, one of which showed price improvements in relation to Toronto.

Northeastern Ontario

Total prices were lower than Toronto in thirteen of the eighteen Northeastern Ontario communities monitored. The differential narrowed in eleven communities and widened in seven others, sometimes reflecting price improvements in relation to Toronto.

A comparison of price differentials between Toronto and all other communities monitored can be found in Table 2.

Table 2a shows the average price of easily comparable items in 37 Ontario communities as of June 1986.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	Dec. 5/85 % Difference from Toronto	Mar. 6/86 % Difference from Toronto	June 5/86 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-2.9	-4.1	-1.6
Kingston	1.3	-1.3	-1.2
London	-4.5	-2.6	-1.2
Ottawa	-5.6	-6.8	-7.3
Owen Sound	-6.8	-5.7	-3.2
Peterborough	-5.0	-2.7	-2.6
Windsor	-1.3	-4.9	-2.6
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	5.6	3.2	4.9
Dryden	5.0	-1.4	2.2
Fort Frances	-2.1	-4.5	-6.5
Geraldton	3.6	-0.4	-1.4
Ignace	8.3	3.3	5.3
Kenora	-2.1	-6.7	5.9
Marathon	2.3	3.1	-0.1
Rainy River	5.6	3.2	4.3
Red Lake	5.1	0.8	7.3
Sioux Lookout	4.3	2.4	3.0
Thunder Bay	-1.9	-6.8	-7.4
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	-5.2	-5.8	-7.4
Chapleau	2.8	1.5	5.8
Cochrane	-3.4	0.3	-0.9
Elliot Lake	-3.0	-6.5	-4.6
Espanola	-2.2	-4.2	1.7
Hearst	1.4	-3.5	-0.8
Iroquois Falls	-4.9	-6.9	-7.5
Kapuskasing	4.4	-0.8	2.1
Kirkland Lake	-5.4	-6.9	-4.6
Manitoulin Island	4.9	3.1	4.5
Moosonee	12.5	10.2	10.3
New Liskeard	-2.1	-4.4	-1.8
North Bay	-5.8	-3.8	-1.9
Sault Ste. Marie	-5.5	-6.2	-5.8
Sturgeon Falls	1.1	-4.1	-2.6
Sudbury	-8.0	-4.6	-3.6
Timmins	-4.4	-5.0	-4.7
Wawa	-6.4	-3.7	-0.1

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Community	Butter 1 lb.	Milk 4L	Eggs 1 doz.	Cereal 350 g.	Flour 3.5 kg.	Instant 10 oz.	Corn 7 oz.	Juice 48 oz.	Bananas 1 lb.	Sugar 3 kg.	Steak 1 lb.	Chicken 1 lb.
Toronto	2.62	2.72	1.42	1.75	5.34	10.11	.665	1.89	.6255	1.325	5.19	1.79
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>												
Hamilton	2.49	2.525	1.36	1.75	5.42	9.735	.75	1.89	.56	1.32	4.83	1.72
Kingston	2.66	2.865	1.44	1.75	5.18	9.12	.67	1.89	.65	1.115	5.42	1.65
London	2.49	2.79	1.29	1.75	5.39	9.365	.75	1.89	.65	1.295	5.29	1.56
Ottawa	2.29	2.29	1.055	1.53	5.25	7.865	.645	1.705	.62	.895	4.75	1.45
Owen Sound	2.395	2.395	1.29	1.75	4.825	9.325	.77	1.89	.65	.995	5.29	1.69
Peterborough	2.69	2.79	1.29	1.75	4.95	9.73	.77	1.89	.65	1.425	5.29	1.68
Windsor	2.49	2.79	1.36	1.75	5.27	9.61	.645	1.695	.65	1.37	5.25	1.75
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>												
Atikokan	2.55	4.47	1.52	1.51	4.71	9.83	.83	1.89	.64	2.29	4.64	1.70
Dryden	2.45	4.33	1.37	1.52	4.82	10.28	.75	1.245	.47	1.72	4.99	1.405
Fort Frances	2.45	2.405	1.40	1.55	4.695	9.36	.67	1.425	.515	1.67	3.27	1.69
Geraldton	2.69	3.69	1.64	1.49	4.81	5.745	.72	1.37	.52	1.89	4.46	1.54
Ignace	2.67	4.39	1.42	1.49	5.55	9.94	.75	1.85	.41	1.82	4.04	1.57
Kenora	2.38	4.30	1.32	1.44	5.01	9.16	.465	1.85	.48	1.82	5.09	.995
Marathon	2.295	2.395	1.42	1.52	5.00	10.36	.73	1.81	.67	2.19	4.94	1.66
Rainy River	2.96	4.64	1.59	1.55	5.17	9.94	.79	1.95	.64	1.88	3.97	1.70
Red Lake	2.79	4.29	1.49	1.57	5.21	11.81	.81	1.99	.54	1.89	5.04	1.77
Sioux Lookout	2.155	4.17	1.45	1.50	5.26	8.17	.79	1.71	.54	1.96	4.94	1.405
Thunder Bay	2.385	2.385	1.39	1.49	4.89	8.50	.79	1.545	.69	1.89	4.39	1.135
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>												
Blind River	2.39	2.69	1.29	1.39	5.69	8.11	.525	1.85	.69	1.295	3.78	1.39
Chapleau	2.59	4.72	1.235	1.75	5.62	10.61	.79	1.79	.335	1.745	5.24	1.64
Cochrane	2.62	3.345	1.51	1.54	5.54	9.65	.78	1.63	.43	1.64	3.64	1.14
Elliot Lake	2.39	3.35	1.14	1.39	5.335	8.42	.72	1.84	.69	1.39	4.39	.995
Espanola	2.49	2.655	1.33	1.75	5.49	8.74	.79	1.89	.79	1.49	5.29	1.99
Hearst	2.555	3.99	1.295	1.47	5.62	8.36	.73	1.89	.545	1.395	4.94	1.71
Iroquois Falls	2.51	3.545	1.40	1.46	5.33	8.11	.77	1.19	.64	1.375	3.79	1.59
Kapuskasing	2.61	4.18	1.48	1.69	5.32	10.46	.77	1.79	.645	1.54	5.37	1.59
Kirkland Lake	2.42	3.34	1.34	1.56	5.62	10.35	.75	1.585	.69	1.355	3.845	1.295
Manitoulin Island	2.64	4.04	1.58	1.69	5.63	9.67	.81	1.88	.59	2.04	5.04	1.59
Moosonee	2.555	5.00	1.745	1.69	5.53	10.07	.65	1.99	.64	1.93	4.34	1.60
New Liskeard	2.69	2.695	1.44	1.575	5.59	8.40	.635	1.89	.74	1.445	4.285	1.345
North Bay	2.52	2.695	1.29	1.73	5.32	9.48	.665	1.89	.655	1.325	5.19	1.74
Sault Ste. Marie	2.39	2.795	1.39	1.87	5.49	9.15	.79	1.79	.59	1.375	3.74	1.74
Sturgeon Falls	2.145	3.045	1.39	1.75	5.49	9.90	.69	1.89	.515	1.74	4.74	2.14
Sudbury	2.52	2.695	1.29	1.63	4.935	9.69	.75	1.595	.62	1.325	5.29	1.79
Timmins	2.45	2.65	1.39	1.51	5.53	8.535	.645	1.86	.69	1.255	4.41	1.58
Wawa	2.44	4.185	1.24	1.57	5.33	9.05	.695	1.62	.545	1.29	4.16	1.195

NOTE: Specials are included for all locations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES
FROM PREVIOUS QUARTERS FOR ALL CENTRES

Between March and June 1986, the total price of the 72 items monitored declined in 5 of the 37 communities monitored. Decreases ranged from 0.1 percent in Geraldton to 2.4 percent in Marathon.

In many communities higher prices for fresh vegetables and sugar contributed to price increases.

Red Lake and Espanola in the north registered significantly higher percentage change than other locations. Increased coffee prices in both communities; higher prices for imported potatoes, lettuce, dry cereal, dinner ham, bacon in Espanola; substitution of some higher priced brands in Red Lake and the lifting of March specials in both communities, especially lamb and poultry in Espanola; combined to contribute significantly to the price changes.

Chapleau's price change was also influenced by increases in the price of coffee, dry cereal, imported potato substitutes and return to regular prices from March specials.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are shown in Table 3.

The percentage changes by category for the period March to December 1986 are available for all centres in Table 3a.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Months
for All Centres

Community	Sept. 5/85 to Dec. 5/85 % Difference	Dec. 5/85 to Mar. 6/86 % Difference	Mar. 6/86 to June 5/86 % Difference
Toronto	2.4	3.8	0.8
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	1.9	2.5	3.5
Kingston	4.2	1.0	1.0
London	1.7	5.9	2.3
Ottawa	4.5	2.4	0.3
Owen Sound	-0.5	5.0	3.6
Peterborough	2.6	6.2	1.0
Windsor	4.8	0.0	3.4
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	0.7	1.4	2.5
Dryden	1.6	-2.6	4.5
Fort Frances	2.4	1.2	-1.2
Geraldton	3.7	-0.3	-0.1
Ignace	3.9	-1.0	2.9
Kenora	3.5	-1.1	1.7
Marathon	-5.5	4.6	-2.4
Rainy River	4.4	1.4	1.8
Red Lake	2.9	-0.4	7.4*
Sioux Lookout	-1.4	1.8	1.4
Thunder Bay	2.7	-1.4	0.1
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	-3.7	3.2	-0.9
Chapleau	1.0	2.4	5.1
Cochrane	-3.0	7.8	-0.4
Elliot Lake	3.9	1.0	3.0
Espanola	1.1	1.7	7.0*
Hearst	2.0	-1.2	3.7
Iroquois Falls	-1.1	1.6	0.2
Kapuskasing	1.5	-1.5	3.8
Kirkland Lake	-3.3	2.1	3.3
Manitoulin Island	0.7	1.9	2.3
Moosonee	-0.4	1.6	1.0
New Liskeard	3.2	1.3	3.6
North Bay	-3.0	5.9	2.9
Sault Ste. Marie	1.9	3.0	1.3
Sturgeon Falls	1.4	-1.6	2.4
Sudbury	-0.7	7.6	1.9
Timmins	0.5	3.1	1.2
Wawa	-2.3	6.8	4.6

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

* Only 1 store monitored.

Table 3a: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, March to June 1966

Community	% Change	Dairy & Eggs	Cereals & Bread	Canned Fruits, Vegetables & Juices	Fresh Fruit & Veg.	Dry Groceries	Oils & Fats	Jams & Syrups	Other Groceries	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
TORONTO	0.8	1.2	4.4	2.4	- 1.0	0.1	- 5.6	2.2	- 2.7	3.2	1.8	21.2	- 3.2	4.0 1.4
S. ONTARIO														
Hamilton	3.5	1.2	2.2	9.5	3.6	14.1	- 2.9	3.2	- 4.7	- 1.9	5.0	15.6	4.1	- 4.4 4.0
Kingston	1.0	- 2.6	1.1	7.0	- 1.8	19.9	- 5.5	3.9	- 0.4	6.8	2.0	2.3	- 13.7	- 2.3 - 4.6
London	2.3	0.6	3.7	- 0.7	17.2	17.2	- 3.0	4.7	0.0	- 4.0	8.3	11.2	- 3.8	8.8 4.2
Ottawa	3.6	- 11.4	10.8	- 0.5	11.3	11.3	- 4.6	0.4	0.5	5.9	2.6	3.4	- 7.4	11.3 - 0.3
Owen Sound	0.3	3.0	- 2.9	11.1	7.4	11.4	6.1	- 1.5	- 0.7	- 4.5	- 2.1	26.6	8.6	23.6 6.6
Peterborough	1.0	2.9	4.1	- 3.3	- 1.4	11.0	4.3	2.7	0.3	- 2.9	3.3	5.1	- 3.6	- 4.7 - 0.4
Windsor	3.4	3.0	7.7	2.9	- 3.0	10.7	- 3.4	2.2	- 3.5	1.2	12.0	13.9	2.3	2.5 7.1
N.W. ONTARIO														
Atikokan	2.5	- 5.3	2.0	12.9	3.6	7.4	5.9	11.3	1.5	0.0	13.5	0.0	- 21.1	0.0 - 3.5
Dryden	4.5	- 0.5	0.2	13.6	- 1.0	15.5	- 0.4	4.6	- 2.6	9.9	1.7	0.0	7.6	10.2 4.6
Fort Frances	- 1.2	- 0.3	- 3.8	6.0	- 5.4	4.0	1.0	- 2.9	0.3	- 0.6	- 2.9	0.0	- 9.4	- 8.5 - 5.8
Geraldton	- 0.1	1.7	2.7	- 3.5	- 0.2	16.4	- 2.8	3.0	6.9	- 3.7	- 4.9	- 36.2	0.1	0.5 - 4.4
Ignace	2.9	1.2	0.2	5.8	5.9	25.9	5.0	- 1.9	1.9	0.2	- 0.7	14.4	- 11.1	2.5 - 3.0
Kenora	1.7	- 2.5	4.8	12.9	0.2	23.8	- 2.9	7.7	- 10.3	- 0.3	3.8	29.7	- 5.2	- 33.7 - 4.3
Marathon	- 2.4	- 18.3	1.5	- 0.5	4.5	- 1.0	3.0	- 0.8	- 1.1	- 1.0	- 1.9	- 19.4	- 6.7	5.6 - 4.0
Rainy River	1.8	- 0.1	1.6	8.4	4.5	21.0	0.3	- 7.0	- 11.8	5.1	- 2.4	- 1.8	- 2.8	- 2.9 - 2.6
Red Lake	7.4	4.9	5.1	23.0	11.4	25.2	12.0	21.9	4.6	- 7.5	0.2	- 2.9	- 16.9	1.6 - 5.3
Stouffville	1.4	- 2.9	- 4.1	1.6	- 3.4	7.7	10.4	22.5	4.4	6.9	4.2	- 10.0	- 8.3	- 7.5 - 3.3
Thunder Bay	0.1	2.5	- 3.9	- 6.9	13.6	0.3	7.5	- 7.3	- 3.7	- 0.6	4.0	- 9.6	- 4.8	7.6 0.1
N.E. ONTARIO														
Blind River	- 0.9	- 14.6	4.2	- 3.4	10.8	0.9	- 3.8	- 2.4	- 0.3	1.0	- 3.8	0.0	- 1.8	38.3 0.9
Chapleau	5.1	0.0	3.1	6.1	- 1.5	42.8	- 4.9	- 2.9	5.3	- 0.4	9.1	- 3.9	12.2	5.2 8.8
Cochrane	- 0.4	- 2.0	0.9	- 6.3	- 1.9	22.0	2.9	4.6	0.1	0.3	- 6.0	0.0	- 1.0	- 9.7 - 4.1
Elliot Lake	3.0	1.8	3.3	- 2.1	3.7	22.1	- 1.0	12.4	- 0.1	- 5.9	- 0.5	8.5	1.5	22.9 3.3
Espanola	7.0	0.9	- 1.1	14.0	- 5.3	24.3	5.7	2.8	4.1	5.1	- 7.4	28.7	17.3	73.8 12.1
Hearst	3.7	3.2	4.3	5.0	- 3.3	6.6	5.5	5.2	6.1	1.0	5.9	35.7	- 8.7	18.7 3.6
Iroquois Falls	0.2	- 11.4	- 0.8	2.1	4.0	31.2	3.0	- 3.5	- 8.0	- 14.8	4.5	- 3.9	0.6	10.2 2.6
Kapuskasing	3.8	0.3	2.7	12.4	5.3	13.2	1.7	5.5	- 0.1	- 0.4	- 7.0	- 13.1	10.9	4.8 0.1
Kirkland Lake	3.3	- 7.0	4.1	8.7	- 6.9	11.7	0.7	- 0.6	- 17.8	15.1	7.6	- 1.5	6.9	15.7 7.6
Manitowlin Island	2.3	0.0	3.2	- 0.4	6.8	28.1	- 1.1	5.2	0.0	2.2	- 0.4	0.0	- 5.6	1.0 - 2.0
Moosonee	1.0	- 3.7	- 2.0	1.2	4.2	22.2	- 2.6	- 4.2	2.0	3.3	- 3.5	30.6	- 3.3	6.3 0.4
New Liskeard	3.6	6.6	0.4	- 0.6	- 1.3	28.0	- 3.7	1.3	0.8	- 0.9	1.7	17.5	4.2	22.0 6.1
North Bay	2.9	4.1	- 0.4	4.6	1.7	29.8	4.3	1.1	1.8	- 3.8	5.6	- 13.7	- 1.9	24.1 3.6
Sault Ste. Marie	1.3	- 3.4	2.4	5.8	- 4.3	17.7	- 1.3	- 1.3	2.0	- 4.4	4.8	9.9	- 4.6	- 0.6 0.8
Sturgeon Falls	2.4	2.2	- 0.8	8.6	2.9	13.3	- 5.2	3.7	2.0	- 11.8	- 1.1	0.0	0.1	37.2 4.0
Sudbury	1.9	- 2.9	- 0.2	2.4	- 2.0	13.3	- 0.6	4.5	1.3	7.5	- 1.1	5.5	- 7.1	27.6 0.6
Timmins	1.7	- 0.4	- 0.1	- 1.8	0.1	14.9	- 2.1	6.6	- 11.0	- 3.5	- 3.8	- 1.7	2.0	15.1 4.1
Wawa	4.6	1.8	5.7	4.1	8.4	47.1	3.6	- 2.2	- 5.3	7.0	9.0	18.3	- 16.3	- 3.4 - 2.1

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring
Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 Ontario communities were monitored. In August, 1981, Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely related to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 percent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres in Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 55 percent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores where possible. In some small communities only two stores could be monitored. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability are often encountered in some of the more remote and smaller communities, appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size. Staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

- . Dairy and Eggs;
- . Cereals and Bread;
- . Canned Fruits and Vegetables (including canned juices);
- . Fresh Fruits and Vegetables;
- . Dry Groceries;
- . Oils and Fats;
- . Jams and Syrups;
- . Other Groceries; and
- . Meats (including beef, frozen lamb, pork and poultry).

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. Other calculations included a comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres as well as percentage changes in prices from previous months for all the centres.

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT 49

SEPTEMBER, 1986



Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

September, 1986

ISSN 0228-0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES.....	1
FOOD PRICES - SITUATION AND OUTLOOK.....	3
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES.....	4
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES.....	7
APPENDICES: Scope of Monitoring & Methodology.....	10

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto:	
June 6, 1985 to June 5, 1986	
September 5, 1985 to September 4, 1986	
June 5, 1986 to July 8, 1986	
July 8, 1986 to August 7, 1986	
August 7, 1986 to September 4, 1986	
June 5, 1986 to September 4, 1986.....	2
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario:	
March 6, 1986, June 5, 1986 and September, 1986.....	5
2a. A 3-Store Average Price of Easily Comparable Items in 37 Ontario Communities as of September 4, 1986.....	6
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres:	
December 5, 1985 to March 6, 1986	
March 6, 1986 to June 5, 1986	
June 5, 1986 to September 4, 1986.....	8
3a. Percentage Change in Prices by Category for All Centres:	
June 1986 to September 1986.....	9

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 items monitored in Toronto increased by 1.8 percent during the quarter June to September 1986. Prices increased by 9.1 percent from a year earlier.

On a monthly basis, total price increased by 1.1 percent between June and July, by 0.3 percent between July and August and by 0.3 percent between August and September.

Over the quarter price declines were noted in categories such as cereals and bread (4.4 percent); beverages (7.0 percent); canned juices (0.8 percent); fresh fruits and vegetables (5.8 percent); oils and fats (1.1 percent); and other groceries (4.4 percent). These were largely due to the featuring of specials on some items in each category during the September monitoring period.

Except for lamb which remained stable, all other categories registered increases ranging between 0.9 percent for dairy and eggs and 27.3 percent for pork.

The substantial increase in pork prices reflected low production and recent increases in the price paid to hog producers.

The dry groceries category also showed a significant increase of 14.9 percent mainly due to the lifting of June specials on items such as rice, pasta and sugar, which offset the effects of September specials on other items, as well as higher regular prices for beans.

Less significant increases in categories such as canned vegetables (4.2 percent); beef (3.8 percent); canned fruits (1.5 percent); jams and syrups (1.6 percent); poultry (1.2 percent); and dairy and eggs (0.9 percent) were largely due to the lifting of June specials, sometimes combined with slight increases in the regular prices of some items.

On an annual basis, significant increases were noted in the beverages as well as the pork category. In the case of beverages, the increase was mainly due to higher retail coffee prices which have been reflecting increases in world coffee prices since February 1985. These increases and the lifting of specials which were featured during the September 1985 monitoring were the main factors behind the 9.1 percent year over year increase in total price.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1: Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	NUMBER OF FOOD ITEMS	YEAR TO YEAR COMPARISON		MONTH TO MONTH COMPARISON		QUARTERLY COMPARISON JUNE 5/86 TO SEPT. 4/86 % CHANGE
		JUNE 6/85 TO JUNE 5/86 % CHANGE	SEPT. 5/85 TO SEPT. 4/86 % CHANGE	JUNE 5/86 TO JULY 8/86 % CHANGE	JULY 8/86 TO AUG. 7/86 % CHANGE	
Dairy and Eggs	5	- 4.0	- 1.3	0.0	0.4	0.9
Cereals and Bread	7	5.7	5.6	- 2.5	0.8	- 4.4
Beverages	5	18.6	24.7	- 6.9	3.2	- 7.0
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	2	17.1	9.6	1.2	0.3	1.5
Canned Fruits	4	11.0	2.6	- 3.3	2.8	4.2
Canned Vegetables	4	- 1.2	- 4.9	- 0.4	1.5	- 0.8
Canned Juices						
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	- 4.0	10.4	19.3	- 2.1	- 5.8
Dry Groceries	7	10.3	6.0	13.2	0.6	14.9
Oils and Fats	4	2.4	3.5	- 1.7	- 3.1	- 1.1
Jams and Syrups	3	- 0.9	9.7	6.6	- 4.6	1.6
Other Groceries	6	2.6	9.0	- 8.3	4.5	- 4.4
Meats	6	- 3.4	9.0	3.1	- 4.3	3.8
Beef	1	17.5	9.8	0.0	- 8.5	0.0
Lamb (frozen)	5	- 6.0	22.7	6.4	2.4	27.3
Pork	3	4.2	1.2	- 6.1	6.5	1.2
Poultry						
Total	72	1.7	9.1	1.1	0.3	1.8

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

FOOD PRICES - SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Food prices are expected to increase by 4-4.5 percent in 1986. Agriculture Canada has revised their June forecast which estimated that the increase in food prices for this year would be near the upper end of the 2-4 percent range.

The June forecast was based on a first quarter retail food price increase of 2.4 percent as measured by the Consumer Price Index and expectations that there would be no significant price movements in major food groups during the second half of the year.

Recent trends in commodity markets, especially pork and poultry, have affected the retail prices and necessitated the forecast revision of approximately one percent higher.

The retail prices of pork and cured meats such as ham and bacon have recently shown significant increases, mainly due to low production in the U.S. and recent increases in the price paid to hog producers. Canadian producer prices for hogs closely follow price movements in the larger U.S. market where producer hog prices have risen due to declining slaughter rates.

This production scenario is likely to continue through to the end of 1986 and the shortfall in U.S. production compared to Canada, will maintain upward pressure on Canadian hog and pork prices. However, there are a few factors which should help reduce feed prices and thus ease the pressure on retail prices during this last quarter. These are lower Canadian grain prices which followed the changes in U.S. subsidies to grain farmers, and strong international competition among grain producing countries.

Poultry prices have increased due to insufficient production to meet the increased demand. The significant increase in pork prices may have led consumers to substitute other meats such as chicken at the retail level. At the same time the additional demand by Expo '86 on Canadian chicken Marketing Agency quota in the third quarter may have also created some short supply and affected retail prices.

Retail coffee prices increased significantly in early 1986 as drought in Brazil reduced the 1985-86 crop by about 50 percent, and triggered a sharp increase in world coffee prices. The world price increase is still having a lagged effect on prices in some retail outlets.

World coffee prices declined in June-July in the light of expectations that Brazil's 1987-88 crop would return to normal levels. Although uncertainties about the effects of cooler weather increased world market contract prices from their June-July lows, the improved outlook for world coffee supplies may result in a levelling off of retail coffee prices during this last quarter.

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO
AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored in September, 1986 was lower than Toronto in the seven other Southern Ontario communities surveyed. The differential between Toronto and four Southern Ontario communities narrowed, reflecting a larger percentage increase in total price in these communities compared to Toronto. The differential widened in three other communities, reflecting price improvements in relation to Toronto.

Northwestern Ontario

The total price was lower than Toronto in four of the eleven Northwestern Ontario communities surveyed. The differential between Toronto and four Northwestern Ontario communities widened, often reflecting price improvements in Toronto in relation to these communities. The differential narrowed in seven other communities reflecting relative price improvements in Toronto.

Northeastern Ontario

Total prices were lower in thirteen of the eighteen Northeastern Ontario communities monitored. The differential narrowed in nine communities and widened in nine others, often reflecting price improvements in relation to Toronto.

A comparison of price differentials between Toronto and all other communities monitored can be found in Table 2.

Table 2a shows the average price of easily comparable items in 37 Ontario communities as of September 1986.

2: Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

COMMUNITY	MARCH 6/86 % DIFFERENCE FROM TORONTO	JUNE 5/86 % DIFFERENCE FROM TORONTO	SEPT. 4/86 % DIFFERENCE FROM TORONTO
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>Central Ontario</u>			
London	- 4.1	- 1.6	- 2.1
Windsor	- 1.3	- 1.2	- 0.9
Chatham	- 2.6	- 1.2	- 2.1
Wawa	- 6.8	- 7.3	- 5.3
Georgian Sound	- 5.7	- 3.2	- 5.3
Northborough	- 2.7	- 2.6	- 2.5
Port Hope	- 4.9	- 2.6	- 0.6
<u>Southwestern Ontario</u>			
Windsor	3.2	4.9	6.0
London	- 1.4	2.2	4.2
St. Catharines	- 4.5	- 5.8	- 2.3
Windsor	- 0.4	- 1.4	- 0.3
Windsor	3.3	5.3	6.0
Windsor	- 6.7	5.9	- 2.9
Windsor	3.1	- 0.1	1.8
Windsor	3.2	4.3	5.9
Windsor	0.8	7.3	8.5
Windsor	2.4	3.0	8.5
Windsor	- 6.8	- 7.4	- 5.4
<u>Eastern Ontario</u>			
Windsor	- 5.8	- 7.4	- 3.6
Windsor	1.5	5.8	1.1
Windsor	0.3	- 0.9	- 2.8
Windsor	- 6.5	- 4.6	- 3.9
Windsor	- 4.2	1.7	- 3.2
Windsor	- 3.5	- 0.8	0.0
Windsor	- 6.9	- 7.5	- 4.3
Windsor	- 0.8	2.1	3.0
Windsor	- 6.9	- 4.6	- 3.3
Windsor	3.1	4.5	5.0
Windsor	10.2	10.3	9.3
Windsor	- 4.4	- 1.8	- 3.9
Windsor	- 3.8	- 1.9	- 4.6
Windsor	- 6.2	- 5.8	- 5.5
Windsor	- 4.1	- 2.6	- 1.7
Windsor	- 4.6	- 3.6	- 3.0
Windsor	- 5.0	- 4.7	- 5.2
Windsor	- 3.7	- 0.1	- 1.5

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Community	Butter 1 lb.	Milk 4 L	Eggs 1 doz.	Dry Cereal 350 g.	Flour 3.5 kg.	Coffee Instant 10 oz.	Canned Corn 7 oz.	Tomato Juice 48 oz.	Bananas 1 lb.	Sugar 3 kg.	Stirloin Steak 1 lb.	Whole Chicken 1 lb.
Toronto	2.72	2.79S	1.42	1.75	5.42	9.32S	.78S	1.82	.57S	1.99	5.42	1.59
S. ONTARIO												
Hamilton	2.35S	2.79S	1.44	1.71	5.42	10.03	.70S	1.85	.69	1.12	3.90	1.95
Kingston	2.75	2.79S	1.46	1.75	4.33S	9.82	.80	1.89	.55S	1.82	4.42S	2.12
London	2.79	2.79S	1.09S	1.75	5.39	9.32	.79	1.89	.44S	1.32S	4.75S	2.19
Ottawa	2.29	2.29S	1.15S	1.53	4.53S	6.98	.84	1.77	.51S	.89S	3.99	2.09
Owen Sound	2.49S	2.39S	1.29S	1.75	5.26	9.96	.79S	1.89	.64	.94S	3.49S	1.64S
Peterborough	2.72	2.69S	1.29	1.75	4.79	8.90S	.83	1.89	.55S	1.39S	4.89	2.05
Windsor	2.59	2.79S	1.36	1.75	5.05	9.36	.77S	1.89	.65	1.45S	4.75	1.89
N.W. ONTARIO												
Atikokan	2.60	4.47	1.52	1.55	4.68	10.92	.85	1.86	.70	1.89	3.64	1.96
Dryden	2.51	4.33	1.36	1.53	4.37	10.28	.79S	1.24S	.54S	1.57	5.09	1.74
Fort Frances	2.45	4.20	1.17S	1.55	4.80	8.96S	.62S	1.47S	.64S	2.05	3.47	1.77
Geraldton	2.74	3.69S	1.64	1.82	5.07	9.99	.72	1.65	.82	1.74	4.49	1.79
Ignace	2.71	4.32	1.42	1.56	5.05	10.49S	.80S	1.85	.67	1.86	4.81	1.66
Kenora	2.38	4.30	1.31	1.44	4.81	8.84	.59S	1.30	.59	1.39	5.09	1.42S
Marathon	2.59	2.99S	1.42S	1.69	5.28	11.41	.83	1.92	.53S	1.99	5.04	1.88
Rainy River	2.87	4.64	1.57	1.55	5.28	10.68	.82	2.05	.63	1.79	4.30	1.70
Red Lake	2.79	4.29	1.49	1.57	5.21	13.58	.84	2.01	.63	1.49	4.72	1.79
Sixox Lookout	2.50	4.45S	1.46	1.55	5.35	11.16	.78	1.71	.74	1.77	4.68	1.74
Thunder Bay	2.38S	2.89S	1.29S	1.59	4.89	9.92	.79	1.44	.69	.99S	4.44	1.74
N.E. ONTARIO												
Blind River	2.39	2.69S	1.29	1.39S	5.69	9.74S	.81	.99S	.33	1.29	3.79	1.71
Chapleau	2.44S	5.01	1.48	1.34S	5.62	10.36S	.83	1.84	.56S	1.84	5.19	1.89
Cochrane	2.72	3.34	1.54	1.54	5.54	10.61	.80	1.63	.41	1.53	3.59	1.69
Elliot Lake	1.99S	2.69S	1.24S	1.49	5.63	9.24	.79	1.86	.41	1.29	4.64	1.85
Espanola	2.49S	2.49S	1.39	1.57S	5.58	8.11	.81	1.59S	.46	1.39	4.54	1.64
Hearst	2.44	3.94	1.58	1.57	5.31	9.25	.74	1.84	.46	1.79	5.49	1.89
Iroquois Falls	2.45	3.62S	1.32	1.46	5.52	10.96	.71S	1.14S	.36S	1.59	3.74	1.69
Kapuskasing	2.75	4.18	1.48	1.69	5.64	10.42	.81	1.79	.79	1.54	5.37	1.79
Kirkland Lake	2.12S	3.38S	1.46	1.29S	5.58S	9.73S	.79	1.58S	.53S	1.24S	4.29	.65S
Manitowlin Island	2.70	4.04	1.58	1.74	5.78	10.39	.82	1.20	.59	1.99	5.04	1.74
Monroevie	2.72	5.00	1.69S	1.75	5.82	10.16	.68	1.94	.62S	2.08	4.33	1.79
New Liskeard	2.79	2.69S	1.50	1.57S	5.59	9.55	.82	1.89	.71	1.88	3.89	1.59
North Bay	2.49	2.49S	1.29S	1.75	5.32	9.69	.83	1.89	.55S	1.45	4.22S	2.05
Sault Ste. Marie	2.49	2.69S	1.39	1.51	5.02S	9.32	.83	1.79	.42S	1.49	4.02	1.85
Sturgeon Falls	2.54	3.09S	1.39	1.75	5.49	9.92	.79S	1.89	.67	1.19S	5.55	1.74
Sudbury	2.59	2.72S	1.19	1.63	5.39	9.36	.78S	1.85	.57	1.39	4.75S	1.65S
Timmins	2.62	2.69S	1.35	1.57	5.53	8.86S	.77S	1.84	.50	1.35S	4.22	1.72
Mata	2.34S	3.98	1.48	1.57	5.59	10.17	.82	1.44S	.33S	1.74	4.14	1.94

NOTE: Specials are included for all locations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES
FROM PREVIOUS QUARTERS FOR ALL CENTRES

Between June and September 1986, the total price of the 72 items monitored declined in six of the 37 Ontario communities monitored. Decreases ranged from 0.2 percent in Cochrane to 3.2 percent in Espanola. Price increases were noted in 31 other communities.

In many communities significantly higher prices for pork and poultry contributed to the overall price increase. As explained earlier, retail pork price increases reflected increases in hog prices paid to producers.

With regard to poultry, increases in retail price were mainly due to higher consumer demand. According to Agriculture Canada* consumers are showing a strong preference for poultry in the restaurant food service and food purchased from stores markets.

The recent increases in pork prices have probably increased consumer demand for chicken at the retail level and has put upward pressure on chicken prices.

Sioux Lookout in the north registered a significantly higher percentage change compared to other communities. This was largely due to the combined effect of higher prices for beverage items such as coffee and chocolate, some vegetable items, pork and poultry, as well as the lifting of September specials.

The significant price decline in Espanola was largely due to the featuring of specials during the September monitoring.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are shown in Table 3.

The percentage changes for the period June to September, 1986 are available for all centres in Table 3a.

* Agriculture Canada Food Price Report, September 1986

3: Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres

COMMUNITY	DEC. 5/85 TO MARCH 6/86 % DIFFERENCE	MARCH 6/86 TO JUNE 5/86 % DIFFERENCE	JUNE 5/86 TO SEPT. 4/86 % DIFFERENCE
Windsor	3.8	0.8	1.8
<u>Western Ontario</u>			
London	2.5	3.5	1.2
Windsor	1.0	1.0	2.1
Windsor	5.9	2.3	0.2
Windsor	2.4	0.3	4.1
Windsor	5.0	3.6	- 0.5
Windsor	6.2	1.0	1.9
Windsor	0.0	3.4	3.8
<u>Western Ontario</u>			
Windsor	1.4	2.5	2.8
Windsor	- 2.6	4.5	3.7
Windsor	1.2	- 0.4	5.5
Windsor	- 0.3	- 0.1	2.8
Windsor	- 1.0	2.9	2.5
Windsor	- 1.1	1.7	5.0
Windsor	4.6	- 2.4	3.8
Windsor	1.4	1.8	3.4
Windsor	- 0.4	7.4*	2.8*
Windsor	1.8	1.4	7.2
Windsor	- 1.4	0.1	4.0
<u>Eastern Ontario</u>			
Windsor	3.2	- 0.9	5.9
Windsor	2.4	5.1	- 2.7
Windsor	7.8	- 0.4	- 0.2
Windsor	1.0	3.0	2.5
Windsor	1.7	7.0*	- 3.2
Windsor	- 1.2	3.7	2.6
Windsor	1.6	0.2	5.2
Windsor	- 1.5	3.8	2.7
Windsor	2.1	3.3	3.2
Windsor	1.9	2.3	2.2
Windsor	1.6	1.0	0.8
Windsor	1.3	3.6	- 0.4
Windsor	5.9	2.9	- 1.1
Windsor	3.0	1.3	2.0
Windsor	- 1.6	2.4	2.7
Windsor	7.6	1.9	2.3
Windsor	3.1	1.2	1.3
Windsor	6.8	4.6	0.3

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Only 1 store monitored

Table 3a: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, June to September 1986 (Percentage Change)

Community	% Change	Dairy and Eggs	Cereals and Bread	Canned Fruits, Vegetables & Juices	Fresh Fruit & Veg.	Dry Groceries	Oils and Fats	Jams and Syrups	Other Groceries	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
Toronto	1.8	0.9	-4.4	-7.0	0.9	-5.8	14.9	-1.1	-4.4	3.8	0.0	27.3	1.2	11.2
S. ONTARIO														
Hamilton	1.2	0.6	-1.2	-8.8	-0.5	-2.6	8.5	-3.1	-8.5	-8.9	9.8	31.4	5.8	9.0
Kingston	2.1	0.0	-6.8	-4.5	1.4	-8.0	10.0	-5.5	-5.1	2.3	-9.1	33.3	27.9	15.8
London	0.2	1.3	-2.2	-3.2	-0.8	-15.9	8.7	-1.3	7.8	-2.3	9.2	6.3	14.3	3.8
Ottawa	4.1	7.9	-5.9	-2.2	4.7	-0.3	6.0	-1.0	-2.1	3.3	9.3	21.7	25.3	13.6
Owen Sound	-0.5	2.6	4.2	-2.7	2.1	-7.9	3.5	-4.9	-3.4	-5.7	-14.6	6.1	-9.2	-2.2
Peterborough	1.9	-0.5	-1.9	-0.1	5.0	-16.7	2.8	0.0	3.6	1.1	6.5	19.8	15.4	10.3
Windsor	3.8	-0.6	-9.9	-3.1	9.4	-9.3	20.4	3.0	16.6	-2.6	4.1	28.3	5.9	9.9
N.W. ONTARIO														
Atikokan	2.8	7.5	2.5	4.3	-1.4	-0.8	0.3	-12.0	2.9	-8.9	-2.0	22.4	35.3	8.2
Dryden	3.7	4.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.6	-7.9	0.1	-0.5	6.0	5.3	4.9	33.2	26.3	17.9
Fort Frances	5.5	7.9	2.6	1.3	7.3	0.5	8.9	3.7	2.2	5.0	0.0	19.7	4.5	9.5
Geraldton	2.8	-1.0	-6.7	20.8	7.3	-4.3	5.3	2.5	-11.0	1.9	24.3	4.7	-4.3	3.2
Ignace	2.5	-9.7	-1.0	3.8	-3.9	17.4	-2.8	-4.8	-2.2	8.5	-14.9	30.4	0.7	12.8
Kenora	5.0	1.2	0.4	4.6	4.5	11.8	5.1	-5.5	1.2	-4.7	9.6	14.9	40.3	8.6
Marathon	3.8	14.2	-1.5	3.3	0.1	-5.2	0.4	2.0	7.5	1.0	-7.8	0.0	26.7	19.1
Rainy River	3.4	-4.7	1.4	2.9	0.1	-4.9	7.3	5.5	10.9	5.3	-1.9	28.3	1.8	12.3
Red Lake	2.8	5.2	-0.4	5.0	1.9	3.3	-0.9	-4.4	0.6	7.4	0.0	24.4	4.4	4.3
Stroux Lookout	7.2	4.9	7.1	15.4	7.1	10.9	7.8	-1.2	-0.2	-4.0	3.9	22.4	11.3	7.8
Thunder Bay	4.0	13.5	-0.4	3.3	-0.6	-0.4	3.5	0.9	5.2	-6.0	-14.9	23.4	10.9	5.9
N.E. ONTARIO														
Blind River	5.9	25.8	1.2	5.3	-5.2	-12.5	-10.6	2.6	-1.0	5.5	11.1	40.5	18.6	21.2
Chapleau	-2.7	0.9	-1.5	-2.9	1.9	-20.6	3.9	-3.9	-2.7	-2.7	0.0	-7.9	12.8	-2.5
Cochrane	-0.2	2.6	2.5	-2.8	6.2	-14.3	-2.7	0.1	5.5	-0.9	6.7	2.1	26.55	3.4
Elliot Lake	5.5	7.8	3.7	0.9	6.2	-14.0	-2.2	1.6	-2.5	0.9	-2.4	11.5	28.1	8.1
Espanola	-3.2	0.0	2.3	-13.3	5.9	-18.2	-6.7	-1.1	-4.9	2.2	-7.4	4.2	-12.1	0.1
Hearst	2.6	1.8	-3.9	1.2	4.3	-3.1	1.5	3.3	-0.2	-1.2	23.3	17.6	20.8	9.7
Iroquois Falls	5.2	5.3	2.9	17.4	-1.2	-27.8	-3.6	-4.3	9.5	3.6	0.0	45.5	3.5	18.6
Kapuskasing	2.7	1.2	2.0	-1.5	2.5	-8.0	1.9	1.9	3.8	9.6	35.2	7.5	12.9	10.6
Kirkland Lake	3.2	12.8	-4.7	-5.2	4.2	-3.9	-6.0	-5.4	-0.7	6.5	17.0	20.6	13.4	13.7
Manitowlin Island	2.2	5.9	-2.0	2.2	-5.1	-8.0	-0.9	0.4	-1.7	-0.9	60.2	18.9	10.3	11.4
Moosonee	0.8	4.6	8.9	1.4	-3.9	-8.9	-2.6	8.5	4.8	-2.6	-23.4	12.6	14.0	3.3
New Liskeard	-0.4	-5.5	-3.2	-2.1	0.3	-17.1	-1.9	2.8	2.2	4.4	48.3	6.7	7.4	9.0
North Bay	-1.0	-0.7	-4.1	-2.8	4.0	-16.3	0.0	4.5	-1.1	-3.6	7.7	9.1	6.7	3.1
Sault Ste. Marie	2.0	2.2	-6.5	-1.3	10.0	-18.1	-3.4	-2.6	2.8	0.9	25.1	30.1	19.0	15.5
Sturgeon Falls	2.7	3.6	5.0	2.0	3.9	-6.9	5.2	-0.6	0.6	14.1	-13.1	7.3	-16.6	5.0
Sudbury	2.3	-0.6	-0.1	-2.9	6.6	-22.3	7.9	-0.6	1.3	5.7	10.4	40.5	5.7	17.8
Timmins	1.3	1.2	-0.6	-3.6	0.7	-14.5	0.4	0.3	21.1	5.5	-4.3	9.4	17.3	8.0
Wawa	0.3	-9.9	3.6	0.8	-1.6	-22.1	-3.7	0.6	-4.8	-5.4	54.0	29.4	33.9	15.8

NOTE: Spots are included for all locations.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 Ontario communities were monitored. In August, 1981, Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely related to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 percent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres in Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 55 percent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores where possible. In some small communities only two stores could be monitored. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability are often encountered in some of the more remote and smaller communities, appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size. Staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

- . Dairy and Eggs;
- . Cereals and Bread;
- . Canned Fruits and Vegetables (including canned juices);
- . Fresh Fruits and Vegetables;
- . Dry Groceries;
- . Oils and Fats;
- . Jams and Syrups;
- . Other Groceries; and
- . Meats (including beef, frozen lamb, pork and poultry).

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. Other calculations included a comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres as well as percentage changes in prices from previous months for all the centres.

CA20N
cc
-F56

Publication

Report #50



Ontario

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



December 1986

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #50

DECEMBER, 1986

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

December, 1986

ISSN 0228-0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES.....	1
OUTLOOK FOR PRICES IN 1987.....	3
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES.....	4
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES.....	7
CHRISTMAS DINNER.....	10
APPENDICES: Scope of Monitoring & Methodology.....	11

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto:	
September 5, 1985 to September 4, 1986	
December 5, 1985 to December 4, 1986	
September 4, 1986 to October 8, 1986	
October 8, 1986 to November 5, 1986	
November 5, 1986 to December 4, 1986	
September 4, 1986 to December 4, 1986.....	2
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario:	
June 5, 1986, September, 1986 and December, 1986.....	5
2a. A 3-Store Average Price of Easily Comparable Items in 37 Ontario Communities as of December 4, 1986.....	6
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres:	
March 6, 1986 to June 5, 1986	
June 5, 1986 to September 4, 1986	
September 4, 1986 to December 4, 1986.....	8
3a. Percentage Change in Prices by Category for All Centres:	
September 1986 to December 1986.....	9
4. Christmas Dinner, Year-To-Year Comparison.....	10

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

During the quarter September to December 1986, food prices in Toronto as measured by the 72 regularly monitored items, rose by 2.7 percent. Prices increased by 9.4 percent from a year earlier.

Monthly comparisons showed that prices increased by 0.1 percent between September and October, 1.7 percent between October and November and 0.9 percent between November and December.

Quarterly declines noted in categories such as dairy and eggs (1.1 percent); beverages (2.0 percent); canned fruits (11.7 percent); canned vegetables (5.4 percent); canned juices (6.7 percent); lamb (8.9 percent); and pork (2.2 percent), were mainly due to specials featured during the December monitoring.

Increases were noted in categories such as cereals and bread (0.9 percent); fresh fruit and vegetables (21.4 percent); dry groceries (11.0 percent); oils and fats (3.5 percent); jams and syrups (8.3 percent); other groceries (12.4 percent); beef (2.6 percent); and poultry (5.9 percent). These were mainly due to the lifting of September specials which, in some cases, were augmented by increases in regular prices.

Fresh fruit and vegetable prices increased as retail supplies of fresh vegetables shifted from local products to higher priced imports.

The significant increase in the price of dried beans was the main factor contributing to the increase in the dry groceries category. Dry bean prices continued to reflect higher wholesale prices triggered by bad weather conditions in Ontario during last fall, which severely damaged bean crops and reduced supplies.

On an annual basis, significant increases were noted in categories such as beverages, dry groceries, pork and poultry. In the case of beverages the increase reflected higher price levels for coffee which have prevailed since February 1986. Although coffee prices seemed to be levelling off, they were higher than in December 1985.

The significant increase in the dry groceries category reflected higher dry beans prices as in the case of the quarterly increase.

Pork and poultry also reflected higher price levels attained during the year as low supplies triggered increases in retail prices.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1: Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF FOOD ITEMS	YEAR TO YEAR COMPARISON				MONTH TO MONTH COMPARISON				QUARTERLY COMPARISON	
		SEPT. 4/85 TO SEPT. 4/86 % CHANGE		DEC. 5/85 TO DEC. 4/86 % CHANGE		SEPT. 4/86 TO OCT. 8/86 % CHANGE		OCT. 8/86 TO NOV. 5/86 % CHANGE		NOV. 5/86 TO DEC. 4/86 % CHANGE	
Dairy and Eggs	5	- 1.3	- 3.6			0.1	1.1	- 2.3	- 1.1		
Cereals and Bread	7	5.6	10.6			3.0	0.6	- 2.7	0.9		
Beverages	5	24.7	18.2			- 9.6	6.3	2.0	- 2.0		
Canned Fruits and Vegetables											
Canned Fruits	2	9.6	- 1.3			- 5.9	- 2.2	- 4.1	- 11.7		
Canned Vegetables	4	2.6	- 2.1			1.4	- 0.3	- 6.5	- 5.4		
Canned Juices	4	- 4.9	- 8.3			- 5.1	1.3	- 2.9	- 6.7		
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	10.4	11.3			11.4	7.4	1.4	21.4		
Dry Groceries	7	6.0	22.9			- 5.2	5.0	11.5	11.0		
Oils and Fats	4	3.5	8.5			3.6	- 3.1	3.1	3.5		
Jams and Syrups	3	9.7	10.7			9.1	- 1.2	0.5	8.3		
Other Groceries	6	9.0	10.7			9.2	3.5	- 0.6	12.4		
Meats											
Beef	6	9.0	5.5			2.3	- 3.7	4.1	2.6		
Lamb (frozen)	1	9.8	- 8.9			0.0	- 5.2	- 3.9	- 8.9		
Pork	5	22.7	17.6			0.4	- 2.4	- 0.1	- 2.2		
Poultry	3	1.2	15.7			- 6.5	15.9	- 2.3	5.9		
Total	72	9.1	9.4			0.1	1.7	0.9	2.7		

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

OUTLOOK FOR PRICES IN 1987

Retail food prices are expected to rise by 3% to 5% in 1987 compared to the increase of 5% in 1986. A number of factors will contribute to the 1987 food prices.

Beef supplies are expected to be lower in the first quarter of 1987 due to expectations of herd rebuilding in Canada and decline in U.S. beef production. This will likely put upward pressure on beef prices in 1987.

Pork prices are expected to experience upward pressure as pork supplies are expected to be lower in Canada and the U.S.

Supplies of storable fruit and vegetable such as apples and potatoes are expected to be smaller, putting upward pressure on prices.

Consumer demand for food is likely to increase slightly, triggered by a slight increase in real personal disposable income.

It is expected that some supply factors will help to moderate food prices and keep the food price increase in the 3% to 5% range.

Supplies of citrus fruits are expected to increase in 1987, resulting in lower retail prices.

Lower food costs for poultry will likely trigger increased production of chicken, turkey and eggs which may result in lower retail prices.

Main Source: Agriculture Canada

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO
AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored in December, 1986 was lower in six of the seven Southern Ontario communities surveyed, compared to Toronto. The differential between Toronto and three Southern Ontario communities narrowed since September reflecting a larger percentage increase in total price in these communities compared to Toronto. The differential widened in four other communities, sometimes reflecting price improvements in relation to Toronto.

Northwestern Ontario

Compared to Toronto, total price was lower in five of the eleven Northwestern Ontario communities surveyed. The differential between Toronto and seven Northwestern Ontario communities narrowed since September, often reflecting a smaller percentage increase or price declines in these communities compared to Toronto. The differential widened in four other communities.

Northeastern Ontario

Total price was lower in fourteen of the eighteen Northeastern Ontario communities monitored, compared to Toronto. The differential narrowed in six communities and widened in twelve others.

A comparison of price differentials between Toronto and all other communities monitored can be found in Table 2.

Table 2a shows the average price of easily comparable items in 37 Ontario communities as of December 4, 1986.

e 2: Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

COMMUNITY	JUNE 5/86 % DIFFERENCE FROM TORONTO	SEPT. 4/86 % DIFFERENCE FROM TORONTO	DEC. 4/86 % DIFFERENCE FROM TORONTO
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>Central Ontario</u>			
Alton	- 1.6	- 2.1	- 3.0
Burlington	- 1.2	- 0.9	0.1
Cambridge	- 1.2	- 2.1	- 2.5
Chatham	- 7.3	- 5.3	- 3.0
Georgetown	- 3.2	- 5.3	- 5.1
North York	- 2.6	- 2.5	- 2.3
Scarborough	- 2.6	- 0.6	- 3.6
<u>Southwestern Ontario</u>			
London	4.9	6.0	3.7
Windsor	2.2	4.2	- 0.8
St. Catharines	- 5.8	- 2.3	- 7.3
Hamilton	- 1.4	- 0.3	- 3.1
Shelburne	5.3	6.0	2.5
Stratford	5.9	- 2.9	- 6.1
St. Thomas	- 0.1	1.8	2.7
Port Huron	4.3	5.9	0.2
St. Mary's	7.3	8.5	6.3
St. John's	3.0	8.5	4.0
St. James	- 7.4	- 5.4	- 7.0
<u>Eastern Ontario</u>			
St. John's	- 7.4	- 3.6	- 3.5
St. John's	5.8	1.1	1.8
St. John's	- 0.9	- 2.8	- 3.3
St. John's	- 4.6	- 3.9	- 5.4
St. John's	1.7	- 3.2	- 5.4
St. John's	- 0.8	0.0	1.0
St. John's	- 7.5	- 4.3	- 3.7
St. John's	2.1	3.0	- 1.0
St. John's	- 4.6	- 3.3	- 6.3
St. John's	4.5	5.0	0.4
St. John's	10.3	9.3	9.5
St. John's	- 1.8	- 3.9	- 6.0
St. John's	- 1.9	- 4.6	- 2.5
St. John's	- 5.8	- 5.5	- 7.3
St. John's	- 2.6	- 1.7	- 1.4
St. John's	- 3.6	- 3.0	- 4.2
St. John's	- 4.7	- 5.2	- 6.6
St. John's	- 0.1	- 1.5	- 3.7

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Community	Butter 1 lb.	Milk 4 L	Eggs 1 doz.	Dry Cereal 350 g.	Flour 3.5 kg.	Coffee Instant 10 oz.	Canned Corn 7 oz.	Tomato Juice 48 oz.	Bananas 1 lb.	Sugar 3 kg.	Steak 1 lb.	Whole Chicken 1 lb.
Toronto	2.75	2.79	1.42	1.75	5.25S	9.86	.82S	1.82	.59S	1.82S	5.21	2.09
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>												
Hamilton	2.62	2.99	1.17S	1.71	4.75S	9.15	.71S	1.72S	.50	1.09	4.85	1.95
Kingston	2.62	2.91	1.43	1.75	4.42S	9.57	.81S	1.82	.59	1.99	4.42	2.09
London	2.69	2.99	1.29	1.66S	5.39	9.73	.82S	1.89	.59	1.49S	4.85	2.04
Ottawa	2.65	2.29	1.15	1.61	5.45	7.88	.84	1.73	.49	.89	4.75	1.42S
Owen Sound	2.49	2.99	1.29	1.75	5.44	8.80S	.83	1.64S	.54S	.99S	4.64	1.54S
Peterborough	2.72	2.99	1.29	1.75	4.97	9.11	.81	1.72	.55	1.52S	4.32	1.65S
Windsor	2.32S	2.79	1.36	1.69	5.42	7.74S	.77S	1.72S	.59	1.49	4.85	1.52S
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>												
Atikokan	2.65	4.47	1.52	1.55	4.82	11.29	.85	2.04	.49S	1.62	4.63	1.89
Dryden	2.61	4.33	1.37	1.53	5.16	8.90	.79S	1.61S	.52S	1.64	4.89	1.67
Fort Frances	2.58	4.20	1.25	1.57S	3.97S	7.32	.61S	1.82	.67	1.75S	3.43S	1.39S
Geraldton	2.74	3.69	1.64	1.55	5.07	9.36	.75	1.67	.94	1.69	3.24	1.73
Ignace	2.80	4.38	1.44	1.56	5.10	8.87	.84	1.84	.56	1.91	4.86	2.03
Kenora	2.58	4.30	1.30	1.39	4.22S	7.31	.59	1.42	.49	1.39	5.29	1.86
Kenora	2.52	2.99	1.52	1.64	5.23	9.05S	.78S	1.92S	.69	2.04	5.09	1.88
Narathon	2.52	2.99	1.59	1.58	5.14S	8.61	.84	2.05	.57	1.80	3.94	1.78
Rainy River	2.87	4.64	1.59	1.58	5.14S	8.61	.84	2.05	.57	1.80	3.94	1.78
Rainy Lake	2.95	4.50	1.49	1.19S	5.21	9.24	.85	1.99	.28S	1.67	4.49	2.09
St. Louis	2.72	4.40	1.49	1.42S	5.09	9.65	.62S	1.41	.52S	1.78	5.51	1.70
St. Louis Lookout	2.72	4.40	1.49	1.42S	5.09	9.65	.62S	1.41	.52S	1.78	5.51	1.70
Thunder Bay	2.49S	2.74	1.24S	1.34S	5.23S	9.11	.79	1.54S	.59	1.99S	4.49S	1.74
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>												
Blind River	2.39	2.69	1.29	1.39	5.69	11.23	.89	1.39	.35S	.99	3.29	1.19S
Chapleau	2.65	4.70	1.48	1.72	5.62	10.61	.82	1.84	.54	1.44S	5.09	1.84
Cochrane	2.72	2.69	1.49	1.54	5.54	9.67	.74	1.75	.47	1.64	3.74	1.39
Elliot Lake	2.39	2.69	1.29	1.40	5.56	7.48	.79	1.77	.42S	1.09S	4.29S	1.54
Espanola	2.39	2.69	1.29	1.57	5.58	7.86S	.81	1.87	.68	.88S	3.64	1.69
Hearst	2.62S	3.99	1.57	1.57	5.54	9.86	.74S	1.79	.54S	1.79	5.12	1.89
Iroquois Falls	2.45	3.28	1.29	1.51	5.67	11.75	.82	1.44S	.42S	1.09S	3.40	1.45
Kapuskasing	2.79	4.18	1.63	1.71	5.64	6.24S	.83	1.54S	.79	1.24S	4.72S	1.70S
Kirkland Lake	2.52	2.71S	1.11	1.54	5.35	9.73	.79	1.58S	.42S	.88S	3.52	1.49S
Manitoulin Island	2.62	4.19	1.58	2.21	5.38	11.13	.84	1.61	.64	1.99	5.04	1.54S
Moosonee	2.72	5.00	1.84	1.86	5.80	13.09	.70	1.98	.68S	2.07	4.92	1.58
New Liskeard	2.39S	2.84	1.29	1.57S	5.59	8.61S	.82	1.89	.52S	1.29S	4.42	1.06S
North Bay	2.59	2.69	1.29	1.75	5.32	9.36S	.79	1.55S	.55S	1.82S	5.35	2.15
Sault Ste. Marie	2.69S	2.69	1.32	1.35S	4.82S	9.32	.71S	1.79	.49S	.89S	3.81	1.42
Sturgeon Falls	2.74	3.34	1.39	1.75	5.49	10.88	.83	1.89	.49S	1.19S	5.28	1.39S
Sudbury	2.65	2.69	1.29	1.75	4.85	9.69	.63S	1.82	.55	1.39	3.82	1.89
Timmins	2.49	2.69	1.32	1.57	5.53	7.90S	.72S	1.57S	.61S	1.05S	4.69	1.92
Wawa	2.48	3.98	1.38	1.57	5.16S	10.17	.75S	.99S	.52S	1.09	3.89	1.84

NOTE: Specials are included for all locations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES
FROM PREVIOUS QUARTERS FOR ALL CENTRES

Between September and December 1986, the total price of the 72 items monitored declined in nine of the 37 communities monitored. Total price increased in 27 other communities and remained stable in one. Decreases ranged from 0.3 percent in Windsor to 2.8 percent in Rainy River. Increases ranged from 0.5 percent in Wawa to 5.2 percent in Ottawa.

In many communities quarterly price increases were influenced by higher prices for items of fresh vegetables, dry groceries, jams and syrups. Pork prices which increased sharply during the third quarter, registered declines in many communities during this monitoring period.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are shown in Table 3.

The percentage changes for the period September to December 1986 are available for all centres in Table 3a.

Table 3: Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres

COMMUNITY	MARCH 6/86 TO JUNE 5/86 % DIFFERENCE	JUNE 5/86 TO SEPT. 4/86 % DIFFERENCE	SEPT. 4/86 TO DEC. 4/86 % DIFFERENCE
Toronto	0.8	1.8	2.7
<u>Southern Ontario</u>			
Hamilton	3.5	1.2	1.8
Windsor	1.0	2.1	3.7
London	2.3	0.2	2.9
Wawa	0.3	4.1	5.2
Georgian Sound	3.6	- 0.5	2.9
Northborough	1.0	1.9	2.9
Orillia	3.4	3.8	- 0.3
<u>Northwestern Ontario</u>			
Thunder Bay	2.5	2.8	0.5
Kenora	4.5	3.7	- 2.1
St. Frances	- 0.4	5.5	- 2.5
Windsor	- 0.1	2.8	0.0
Worcester	2.9	2.5	- 0.7
Wrentham	1.7	5.0	- 0.7
Wingham	- 2.4	3.8	3.7
Windsor River	1.8	3.4	- 2.8
Windsor Lake	7.4	2.8	0.7
Windsor Lookout	1.4	7.2	- 1.5
Windsor Bay	0.1	4.0	1.0
<u>Northeastern Ontario</u>			
Windsor River	- 0.9	5.9	2.9
Windsor	5.1	- 2.7	3.4
Windsor	- 0.4	- 0.2	2.2
Windsor Lake	3.0	2.5	1.1
Windsor	7.0	- 3.2	0.4
Windsor	3.7	2.6	3.7
Windsor Falls	0.2	5.2	3.5
Windsor	3.8	2.7	- 1.2
Windsor Lake	3.3	3.2	- 0.4
Windsor Island	2.3	2.2	- 1.7
Windsor	1.0	0.8	2.9
Windsor	3.6	- 0.4	0.5
Windsor Bay	2.9	- 1.1	5.0
Windsor Ste. Marie	1.3	2.0	0.9
Windsor Falls	2.4	2.7	3.0
Windsor	1.9	2.3	1.5
Windsor	1.2	1.3	1.2
Windsor	4.6	0.3	0.5

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Community	% Change	Dairy and Eggs	Cereals and Bread	Beverages	Fruits, Vegetables & Juices	Fruit & Veg.	Dry Groceries	Oil and Fats	Jams and Syrup	Other Groceries	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
Toronto	2.7	-1.1	0.9	-2.0	-7.6	21.5	11.0	3.5	8.3	12.4	2.6	-8.9	-2.2	5.9	0.4
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>															
Hamilton	1.8	2.4	-2.3	3.9	-8.2	5.0	20.0	-2.6	-2.3	15.6	5.6	-2.6	-15.5	19.4	-2.5
Kingston	3.7	-0.5	2.4	2.4	-2.3	5.4	13.7	5.1	3.3	7.5	0.4	20.1	3.9	5.5	3.5
London	2.9	6.4	-2.2	0.3	-2.5	22.0	10.8	-5.0	5.2	4.8	-0.6	-1.1	9.9	-13.6	0.8
Ottawa	5.2	3.0	11.1	5.2	-3.4	11.2	8.1	5.8	10.2	11.1	6.9	7.2	3.9	-17.3	2.1
Owen Sound	2.9	2.0	3.7	-4.5	-3.3	11.7	15.1	7.9	14.5	7.9	3.3	18.1	-9.0	-3.2	-1.8
Peterborough	2.9	-0.5	1.4	1.1	-6.3	18.1	7.7	-1.4	8.8	4.7	1.5	-6.5	9.5	-4.8	3.4
Windsor	-0.3	-2.2	7.9	-9.4	-9.9	27.1	-2.1	-5.2	10.4	-8.1	6.7	1.6	-0.2	-6.4	1.8
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>															
Atikokan	0.5	3.0	-1.5	1.2	0.3	2.0	-4.8	1.9	0.8	5.0	9.3	4.2	-9.0	-2.4	0.0
Dryden	-2.1	-1.1	3.3	-12.4	-2.0	3.2	5.5	1.2	7.2	-2.0	3.7	-9.3	-13.1	-7.5	-5.4
Fort Frances	-2.5	-1.2	0.7	-8.8	-1.8	-0.9	-1.4	0.5	6.0	0.3	-0.1	-26.4	-5.7	-7.1	-5.2
Geraldton	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.2	-0.1	0.7	6.8	-2.5	10.4	1.1	-6.5	19.5	-6.6	-2.4	-4.5
Ignace	-0.7	12.3	0.7	-11.4	0.6	-20.2	4.4	12.8	3.2	-1.0	1.9	-3.4	0.1	9.4	1.9
Kenora	-0.7	1.5	-4.6	-8.2	1.7	0.7	-2.0	3.5	1.0	-9.3	10.9	-0.4	-0.8	2.4	4.3
Marathon	3.7	5.0	-0.9	-6.6	-2.7	5.9	-3.9	-2.2	0.8	11.0	15.5	0.0	19.3	4.3	14.3
Rainy River	-2.8	3.9	-4.0	-12.5	4.9	3.8	1.8	3.9	-14.7	4.6	-5.7	3.9	-13.1	-1.2	-7.5
Red Lake	0.7	2.8	-0.2	-13.7	-5.4	-13.8	16.5	-9.9	6.4	3.1	5.2	29.7	19.7	8.5	12.5
Sioux Lookout	-1.5	2.3	-4.0	-5.6	-6.4	-1.9	-0.1	-0.2	-6.8	1.9	12.5	0.0	-6.9	-6.0	1.3
Thunder Bay	1.0	-8.7	5.6	-1.8	-13.6	0.3	7.6	2.5	5.9	1.7	14.8	-0.5	-4.4	21.5	6.8
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>															
Blind River	2.9	-2.6	0.4	6.7	-1.7	33.5	15.1	-19.4	5.1	25.3	-0.3	0.0	-4.5	-30.6	-5.6
Chapleau	3.4	-1.6	2.6	0.6	-1.8	3.3	4.3	3.3	3.2	-1.8	11.0	11.2	14.3	2.6	10.9
Cochrane	2.2	-7.7	-2.4	2.1	2.5	14.1	16.7	-0.3	-0.1	-4.3	3.0	-6.3	10.2	-8.5	3.4
Elliot Lake	1.1	-2.2	0.2	-6.6	-7.0	16.6	14.9	-4.2	7.0	24.1	-0.2	0.4	-2.8	-14.0	-3.2
Espanola	0.4	-3.7	-0.5	1.2	-3.2	17.3	12.1	-5.5	5.3	-0.5	-1.3	0.0	-4.8	-11.2	-4.0
Hebert	3.7	2.3	3.0	1.7	2.9	9.0	-0.6	-4.2	-7.0	11.5	1.3	0.3	25.6	-0.3	8.4
Iroquois Falls	3.5	-2.2	3.3	4.5	7.8	27.5	9.0	5.2	11.0	4.0	10.5	4.0	-19.7	-8.7	-5.8
Kapuskasing	-1.2	-1.5	0.9	-18.6	-8.8	8.4	11.2	-1.4	4.4	11.9	-2.5	0.0	5.8	-10.6	-0.4
Kirkland Lake	-0.4	-7.6	0.9	-3.9	0.7	11.2	13.7	0.9	4.4	5.8	-1.6	-19.0	-8.3	-10.2	-6.8
Manitowlin	-1.7	-0.7	3.1	-4.0	3.1	3.3	-2.6	-3.6	0.1	7.0	2.0	-41.3	-8.0	-12.1	-7.6
Island															
Moosonee	2.9	-15.7	-0.7	10.2	3.8	7.2	-1.1	5.8	29.5	4.9	8.6	17.5	1.7	1.5	5.4
New Liskeard	0.5	-3.9	2.7	2.4	1.2	-10.7	13.2	-10.1	3.7	8.2	6.1	-18.8	7.1	-28.2	-0.6
North Bay	5.0	0.9	2.1	1.6	-5.3	16.3	12.3	-5.3	13.1	16.5	12.7	-1.6	3.9	-3.6	5.8
Sault Ste. Marie	0.9	-2.9	2.4	-2.8	-10.9	22.2	12.6	12.1	3.5	4.8	8.6	-3.1	-14.2	-12.2	-4.4
Sturgeon Falls	3.0	2.4	-2.2	3.1	-5.5	21.8	5.7	2.2	2.6	11.7	-1.2	12.6	6.7	-15.3	0.7
Sudbury	1.5	0.1	-1.0	2.2	-10.4	14.9	10.1	-0.8	11.6	2.9	3.5	-3.9	-6.2	4.0	-0.8
Timmins	1.2	1.4	-0.3	2.6	-2.6	7.8	10.0	-7.9	12.3	15.3	3.9	-11.7	-11.7	-23.3	-5.7
Nawa	0.5	-4.4	-2.2	3.6	-6.2	20.0	-0.1	-11.4	0.6	13.8	1.9	-18.8	6.0	-12.4	-0.6

NOTE: Specials are included for all locations.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

The estimated cost of Christmas dinner for four people is compared between December 1985 and December 1986 in Table 4. This includes a survey of baking needs and is based on a three-store average.

Table 4: Christmas Dinner, Year-To-Year Comparison

Dinner	December		% Change
	1985	1986	
Mushroom Soup - 10 oz. (2 tins)	1.33	1.24	
Garden Cocktail - 28 oz.	1.29	.87	
Turkey Grade A Frozen - 12 lbs.	17.88	18.20	
Cranberry Sauce - 14 oz.	1.19	1.19	
Stuffing Mix - Turkey - 8 oz.	1.36	1.29	
Bread - loaf	.82	.82	
Yam - 1 lb.	.37	.62	
Green Beans, fresh - 1 lb.	1.22	1.62	
Broccoli - bunch	1.29	1.42	
Christmas Plum Pudding - 15 oz.	2.62	2.92	
Coffee - 1 lb. bag	3.68	4.35	
2% Milk - 1 quart (1.136 litres)	.99	.85	
Wine - Ontario	<u>5.45</u>	<u>5.45</u>	
Dinner Total	39.49	40.84	3.42
<u>Baking Needs</u>			
Raisins - 15 oz. (425 gr.)	1.68	1.42	
Almonds, sliced - 100 gr.	1.52	2.29	
Walnut Pieces - 100 gr.	1.22	1.02	
Butter - 1 lb.	2.69	2.79	
Candied Fruits:			
Mixed Peel, diced - 8 oz.	1.53	1.74	
Cherries Red & Green - 8 oz.	2.69	2.84	
Flour - 2.5 kg.	2.32	2.89	
Sugar Granulated - 2 kg.	1.66	1.82	
Spices:			
Ginger ground - 32 gr.	1.58	1.71	
Allspice ground - 32 gr.	1.82	1.95	
Cinnamon ground - 32 gr.	1.48	1.61	
Brandy, Ontario - 13 ozs.	7.80	8.20	
Eggs - 1 doz.	<u>.99</u>	<u>.99</u>	
Baking Total	28.98	31.27	7.90
Total Dinner & Baking	<u>68.47</u>	<u>72.11</u>	<u>5.32</u>

NOTE: Specials are included in three-store average.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 Ontario communities were monitored. In August, 1981, Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely related to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 percent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres in Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 55 percent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores where possible. In some small communities only two stores could be monitored. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability are often encountered in some of the more remote and smaller communities, appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size. Staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

- . Dairy and Eggs;
- . Cereals and Bread;
- . Canned Fruits and Vegetables (including canned juices);
- . Fresh Fruits and Vegetables;
- . Dry Groceries;
- . Oils and Fats;
- . Jams and Syrups;
- . Other Groceries; and
- . Meats (including beef, frozen lamb, pork and poultry).

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. Other calculations included a comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres as well as percentage changes in prices from previous months for all the centres.

CA20N
cc
- FSU

Report #51



ario

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



March 1987

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	3
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	5
APPENDICES:	
Scope of Monitoring & Methodology	9

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
<p>1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">December 5, 1985 to December 4, 1986 March 6, 1986 to March 5, 1987 December 4, 1986 to March 5, 1987</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">September, 1986, December 1986 and March, 1987</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>2a. A 3-Store Average Price of Easily Comparable Items in 37 Ontario Communities as of March 5, 1987</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">June 5, 1986 to September 4, 1986 September 4, 1986 to December 4, 1986 December 4, 1986 to March 5, 1987</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>3a. Percentage Change in Prices by Category for All Centres:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">December, 1986 to March, 1987</p>	<p>8</p>

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

During the quarter December 1986 to March 1987, food prices in Toronto as measured by the 72 regularly monitored items, rose by 2.4 per cent. This increase was mainly due to the return to regular prices from promotions during the festive season in December. Prices increased by 8.0 per cent from a year earlier.

Quarterly declines noted in categories such as dairy and eggs (0.2 per cent); canned vegetable (3.3 per cent); fresh fruits and vegetables (0.8 per cent) and pork (4.1 per cent) were mainly due to specials featured during the March monitoring.

Increases were registered in categories such as cereal and bread (5.5 per cent); beverages (4.2 per cent); canned fruits (4.3 per cent); canned juices (10.4 per cent); dry groceries (8.0 per cent); oils and fats (0.8 per cent); jams and syrups (1.2 per cent); other groceries (5.5 per cent); beef (0.3 per cent); lamb (4.1 per cent); and poultry (2.4 per cent). These increases were mainly due to the lifting of December specials and, in some cases, increases in regular prices.

The increases in the dry groceries category reflected increases in dry bean prices due to a combination of the lifting of a December special and an increase in regular price.

Significant annual increases were noted in categories such as fresh fruit and vegetables, dry groceries, other groceries, lamb, pork and poultry.

In the case of fresh fruit and vegetables, the increase reflected higher prices for storables as storage holdings reached substantially lower levels than a year ago.

As in the quarterly increase, the significant year over year increase in the price of dried beans was the main factor contributing to the increase in the dry groceries category.

Increases in the other categories were mainly due to the lifting of specials which were featured during the March 1986 monitoring period.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF FOOD ITEMS	YEAR TO YEAR COMPARISON		QUARTERLY COMPARISON
		MARCH 6/86 to MARCH 5/87 % Change	DEC. 5/85 to DEC. 4/86 % Change	
Dairy and Eggs	5	0.8	- 3.6	- 0.2
Cereals and Bread	7	6.3	10.6	5.5
Beverages	5	- 2.9	18.2	4.2
Canned Fruits & Vegetables				
Canned Fruits	2	- 2.5	- 1.3	4.3
Canned Vegetables	4	- 7.0	- 2.1	- 3.3
Canned Juices	4	- 0.5	- 8.3	10.4
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	13.6	11.3	- 0.8
Dry Groceries	7	28.5	22.9	8.0
Oils and Fats	4	5.4	8.5	0.8
Jams and Syrups	3	8.4	10.7	1.2
Other Groceries	6	17.1	10.7	5.5
Meats				
Beef	6	8.7	5.5	0.3
Lamb	1	14.9	- 8.9	4.1
Pork	5	15.6	17.6	- 4.1
Poultry	<u>3</u>	<u>14.1</u>	<u>15.7</u>	<u>2.4</u>
Total	72	8.0	9.4	2.4

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND
36 OTHER COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored in March, 1987, was lower than Toronto in all other seven Southern Ontario communities surveyed. The differential between Toronto and all other seven Southern Ontario communities widened, reflecting a smaller percentage increase in total price compared to Toronto.

Northwestern Ontario

Total price was lower in six of the eleven Northwestern Ontario communities surveyed. The differential between Toronto and five northwestern Ontario communities narrowed, often reflecting smaller percentage increases or price declines in these communities compared to Toronto.

The differential widened in six other communities often reflecting smaller increases in total price compared to Toronto.

Northeastern Ontario

Compared to Toronto, total price was lower in 17 of 18 Northeastern Ontario communities monitored. The differential between Toronto and two Northeastern Ontario communities narrowed. The differential widened in 15 other communities and remained stable in one, often reflecting lower increases in total price compared to Toronto.

A comparison of price differential between Toronto and all other communities monitored can be found in Table 2.

Table 2a shows the average price of easily comparable items in 37 Ontario communities as of March 5, 1987.

Table 2:

Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres

COMMUNITY	SEPT. 4/86 % Difference from Toronto	DEC. 4/86 % Difference from Toronto	MAR. 5/87 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	--	--	--
<u>Southern Ontario</u>			
Hamilton	- 2.1	- 3.0	- 6.5
Kingston	- 0.9	0.1	- 3.2
London	- 2.1	- 2.5	- 4.6
Ottawa	- 5.3	- 3.0	- 9.0
Owen Sound	- 5.3	- 5.1	- 5.6
Peterborough	- 2.5	- 2.3	- 3.2
Windsor	- 0.6	- 3.6	- 4.4
<u>Northwestern Ontario</u>			
Atikokan	6.0	3.7	1.3
Dryden	4.2	- 0.8	- 2.9
Fort Frances	- 2.3	- 7.3	- 9.0
Geraldton	- 0.3	- 3.1	- 3.4
Ignace	6.0	2.5	- 1.4
Kenora	- 2.9	- 6.1	- 9.9
Marathon	1.8	2.7	3.1
Rainy River	5.9	0.2	0.0
Red Lake	8.5	6.3	3.0
Sioux Lookout	8.5	4.0	2.1
Thunder Bay	- 5.4	- 7.0	- 8.7
<u>Northeastern Ontario</u>			
Blind River	- 3.6	- 3.5	- 7.2
Chapleau	1.1	1.8	- 3.8
Cochrane	- 2.8	- 3.3	- 3.3
Elliot Lake	- 3.9	- 5.4	- 5.9
Espanola	- 3.2	- 5.4	- 6.0
Hearst	0.0	1.0	- 1.8
Iroquois Falls	- 4.3	- 3.7	- 8.9
Kapuskasing	3.0	- 1.0	- 1.5
Kirkland Lake	- 3.3	- 6.3	- 6.8
Manitoulin Island	5.0	0.4	- 2.2
Moosonee	9.3	9.5	8.3
New Liskeard	- 3.9	- 6.0	- 6.6
North Bay	- 4.6	- 2.5	- 6.5
Sault Ste. Marie	- 5.5	- 7.3	- 8.9
Sturgeon Falls	- 1.7	- 1.4	- 5.6
Sudbury	- 3.0	- 4.2	- 4.8
Timmins	- 5.2	- 6.5	- 6.2
Wawa	- 1.5	- 3.7	- 7.1

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of
Consumer and Commercial Relations

TABLE 2a: 3-Store Average* of Easily Comparable Food Items in 37 Ontario Communities, March 5, 1987

	Dollars											
	Butter	Milk	Eggs	Dry	Coffee	Canned	Tomato	Bananas		Sirloin	Whole	
Community	1 lb.	4L	1 doz.	Cereal 350 g.	Flour 3.5kg.	Instant 10 oz.	Corn 7 oz.	Juice 48 oz.	1 lb.	Sugar 2 kg.	Steak 1 lb.	Chicken 1 lb.
Toronto	2.75	2.99	1.27s	1.81	5.49	9.65	.81s	1.89	.65	1.82s	5.35	2.09
S. Ontario												
Hamilton	2.59	3.05	1.34	1.59s	4.96s	8.31s	.79	1.65	.59s	.99s	3.95s	2.02
Kingston	2.49	2.79s	1.43	1.51	5.87	8.82s	.87	1.59s	.59	1.82s	5.29	1.82
London	2.49	2.99	1.35	1.81	5.45	8.73	.83	1.89	.69	1.49s	4.75	1.62
Ottawa	2.29	2.29s	1.05s	1.61	5.60	6.60	.85	1.80	.62	.89s	4.29	1.65
Owen Sound	2.49s	2.98s	1.29	1.80	5.45s	8.80s	.59s	1.89	.64	1.49s	5.25	2.10
Peterborough	2.69	2.99	1.29	1.78	5.41	8.48	.87	1.82	.65	1.65	5.11	1.61
Windsor	2.59	3.02	1.37	1.85	5.32	8.14	.83s	1.89	.65	1.49	3.79	2.02
N.W. Ontario												
Atikokan	2.65	4.47	1.27s	1.55	4.49	11.29	.86	1.99	.60	1.62	5.10	1.79
Dryden	2.51	4.33	1.39	1.43s	4.60	8.90	.83	1.61	.45	1.75	5.29	1.62s
Fort Frances	2.63	4.20	1.37	1.59	2.99s	7.49	.79	1.59s	.59	2.10	3.57	1.81
Geraldton	2.74	3.99	1.64	1.32	5.31	9.36	.75	1.32	.49	1.74	4.33	1.69
Ignace	2.72s	4.36	1.40	1.36s	5.06	8.22	.84	1.44s	.64	1.79	4.29s	1.74
Kenora	2.58	4.30	1.32	1.29s	4.70	8.83	.59	1.12	.43s	1.07	4.27	1.77
Marathon	2.59	4.47	1.44s	1.76	5.29	10.11	.88	1.98	.69s	1.50s	5.39	1.69
Rainy River	2.89	4.65	1.59	2.18	5.23	8.48	.83	2.01	.51	1.80	3.84	1.81
Red Lake	2.82	4.44	1.54	1.65	5.39	9.23	.84	1.82	.47s	1.73	4.71	1.99
Sioux Lookout	2.70	4.22	1.49	1.60	5.37	9.65	.79	1.81	.58	1.68	5.07	1.73
Thunder Bay	2.89	2.99	1.24	1.59	4.89s	9.04	.79	1.42s	.59	1.99	4.49	1.69
N.E. Ontario												
Blind River	2.29	2.69s	1.09s	1.49	5.69	10.61s	.69s	.99s	.45	1.29s	2.89	1.49
Chapleau	2.35s	4.48	1.48	1.77	5.62	8.85	.77s	1.34s	.73	1.44s	4.64	1.39
Cochrane	2.69	2.69s	1.47	1.64	5.54	9.83	.82	1.77	.68	1.64	2.99	1.54
Elliot Lake	2.29	2.69s	1.09s	1.54	5.71	9.85	.81	1.69	.52	1.29	3.59	1.34
Espanola	2.29	2.69s	1.09s	1.62	5.76	10.03	.78	1.74	.57	1.39	3.64	1.59s
Hearst	2.60	3.99	1.58	1.61	5.68	9.48	.80	1.14s	.69	1.34	4.64	1.94
Iroquois Falls	2.40	3.19	1.21	1.24s	5.54	10.20	.84	1.34	.45	1.29	3.24	1.35s
Kapuskasing	2.59	4.18	1.48	1.76	5.14	9.92	.86	1.84	.79	1.44	5.37	2.10
Kirkland Lake	2.59	3.37	1.19s	1.69	5.55	8.98s	.83	1.39s	.65	1.09s	4.72	1.49s
Manitoulin Island	2.70	4.19	1.58	1.89	4.93	10.33	.84	1.46s	.57	1.63	4.39	1.59
Moosonee	2.77	4.89	1.64s	1.78	5.77	13.09	.92	1.97	.82	2.14	5.31	1.67
New Liskeard	2.29	2.69s	1.04s	1.67s	5.59	9.05	.79s	1.89	.57s	1.29	3.34	1.19
North Bay	2.29	2.69s	1.09s	1.78	5.42	8.49s	.87	1.89	.65s	1.29s	5.35	1.93s
Sault St. Marie	2.29s	2.69s	1.09s	1.11s	5.46	8.48s	.62s	1.59s	.54	1.29	4.08s	1.62
Sturgeon Falls	2.49s	3.19	1.24s	1.80	5.49	10.79	.86	1.64	.67	1.39	4.64	1.82
Sudbury	2.49s	2.69s	1.09s	1.81	5.50	8.73	.83	1.89	.59s	1.29	4.39	1.89
Timmins	2.49	2.69s	1.05	1.64s	5.55	9.98	.83	1.59s	.61	1.29	3.65	1.65
Nawa	2.43	3.98	1.09s	1.67	6.06	8.74	.77	1.43s	.57	1.24	3.55	1.22

* NOTE: Specials are included in all locations

**ONTARIO COMMUNITIES
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES
FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER FOR ALL CENTRES**

Between December 1986 and March 1987, the total price of the 72 items monitored declined in 14 of the 37 communities monitored. Decreases ranged between 0.3 per cent in Manitoulin Island to 3.9 per cent in Ottawa. Increases ranged from 0.2 per cent in Dryden to 2.9 per cent in Timmins.

Many communities registered price declines in categories such as beverages, fresh fruit and vegetables, beef, pork and poultry, which helped to moderate total price increases in these communities.

In many cases price declines in the beverages category reflected lower coffee prices due to either specials or lower regular prices. Lower retail beef prices reflected the decrease in prices paid to cattle producers in recent months.

Pork prices at retail also showed a delayed response to lower hog producer prices over the past three months.

Declines in poultry prices reflect promotional activities in many communities.

Quarterly price increases were often influenced by higher prices in the groceries categories, mainly reflecting lagged increases in dried bean prices and sometimes, the lifting of December specials.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are shown in Table 3.

Percentage changes for the period December 1986 to March 1987 are available for all centres in Table 3a.

Table 3:
Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres

COMMUNITY	JUNE 5/86 to SEPT. 4/86 % Difference	SEPT. 4/86 to DEC. 4/86 % Difference	DEC. 4/86 to MARCH 5/87 % Difference
Toronto	1.8	2.7	2.4
<u>Southern Ontario</u>			
Hamilton	1.2	1.8	- 1.2
Kingston	2.1	3.7	- 0.9
London	0.2	2.9	0.3
Ottawa	4.1	5.2	- 3.9
Owen Sound	- 0.5	2.9	2.0
Peterborough	1.9	2.9	1.6
Windsor	3.8	- 0.3	1.6
<u>Northwestern Ontario</u>			
Atikokan	2.8	0.5	0.0
Dryden	3.7	- 2.1	0.2
Fort Frances	5.5	- 2.5	0.5
Geraldton	2.8	0.0	2.1
Ignace	2.5	- 0.7	- 1.5
Kenora	5.0	- 0.7	- 1.6
Marathon	3.8	3.7	2.8
Rainy River	3.4	- 2.8	2.1
Red Lake	2.8	0.7	- 0.7
Sioux Lookout	7.2	- 1.5	0.6
Thunder Bay	4.0	1.0	0.6
<u>Northeastern Ontario</u>			
Blind River	5.9	2.9	- 2.2
Chapleau	- 2.7	3.4	- 3.1
Cochrane	- 0.2	2.2	2.4
Elliot Lake	2.5	1.1	2.0
Espanola	- 3.2	0.4	1.8
Hearst	2.6	3.7	- 0.4
Iroquois Falls	5.2	3.5	- 3.2
Kapuskasing	2.7	- 1.2	2.0
Kirkland Lake	3.2	- 0.4	1.9
Manitoulin Island	2.2	- 1.7	- 0.3
Moosonee	0.8	2.9	1.3
New Liskeard	- 0.4	0.6	1.8
North Bay	- 1.1	5.0	- 1.7
Sault Ste. Marie	2.0	0.9	0.7
Sturgeon Falls	2.7	3.0	- 1.8
Sudbury	2.3	1.5	1.8
Timmins	1.3	1.2	2.9
Wawa	0.3	0.5	- 1.1

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

a: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, Dec. 1986 to Mar. 1987 (Percentage Change)

	% Change	Canned										Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat	
		Dairy		Cereals		Fruits		Fresh Dry		Oils	Jams						Other
		& Eggs	& Bread	Bever-	Veg.& Juices	Fruit & Veg.	Groc-eries	& Fats	& Syrups	& Groc-eries							
Ontario	2.4	-0.2	5.5	4.2	5.5	-0.8	8.0	0.8	1.2	5.5	0.3	4.1	-4.1	2.4	-0.9		
Ontario																	
Wilton	-1.2	1.0	1.6	-10.1	11.2	5.5	-0.6	3.2	0.4	6.0	-5.5	-22.9	-9.7	-1.9	-7.6		
Wagston	-0.9	3.2	9.8	-8.3	4.7	0.5	0.4	-0.8	5.5	9.2	3.3	-2.9	-12.3	-34.3	-8.9		
Weldon	0.3	-5.4	3.4	-5.5	1.0	-1.5	13.5	9.0	3.1	5.7	0.9	-16.3	-4.3	-9.4	-3.6		
Wawa	-3.9	-5.8	1.0	-10.0	3.6	-0.8	-7.5	0.0	-8.0	0.8	-7.5	13.1	-5.5	-6.1	-5.3		
Wain Sound	2.0	1.6	-2.2	-11.0	12.3	1.6	12.2	1.9	-6.3	4.2	13.7	17.0	-12.6	28.5	5.8		
Wainborough	1.6	1.1	3.2	-9.2	10.8	3.4	16.4	8.6	1.2	9.9	5.4	21.1	-15.6	-6.8	-4.3		
Waindson	1.6	2.7	1.7	0.5	6.7	-5.8	14.8	0.1	-0.4	11.9	-6.0	32.0	-11.4	9.2	-4.0		
Ontario																	
Wainokan	0.0	-1.6	0.5	0.7	-5.8	-2.2	11.4	6.4	1.5	4.6	2.1	0.0	-5.0	-20.7	-4.3		
Wainden	0.2	-0.4	-4.3	0.1	5.3	-12.8	4.9	-0.4	1.0	7.2	-1.8	7.1	0.1	9.4	0.9		
Wainst Frances	0.5	-1.1	-9.2	-0.4	4.4	-0.6	9.6	4.4	1.1	-8.5	1.3	-3.0	-0.2	16.6	2.7		
Wainaldton	2.1	6.8	-5.7	-6.7	-1.6	5.7	10.6	11.9	7.3	-2.4	6.0	11.1	-0.1	0.4	3.2		
Wainace	-1.5	-12.7	-0.6	-2.4	2.0	17.9	-7.7	-1.1	0.8	2.3	-7.8	4.3	8.4	-13.7	-1.6		
Wainora	-1.6	-8.2	2.4	6.1	-0.6	-3.4	6.1	-7.6	1.8	15.7	-8.9	-1.1	-16.5	3.4	-9.5		
Wainathon	2.8	7.0	1.7	9.2	6.5	11.5	3.6	-3.9	3.5	0.8	6.7	0.0	-5.5	-24.3	-3.4		
Wainy River	2.1	1.5	5.1	-1.3	-1.7	-3.8	5.3	8.4	15.8	-5.5	1.5	0.0	8.5	-0.5	3.7		
Wainlake	-0.7	-1.8	3.8	-10.2	1.3	4.2	4.7	2.0	-0.4	12.1	6.2	-3.1	-15.8	-3.8	-4.4		
Wainux Lookout	0.6	-3.1	8.1	-0.7	3.0	-2.9	6.1	4.1	8.5	1.4	-5.1	0.0	-7.8	8.1	-3.9		
Wainnder Bay	0.6	14.7	0.1	0.4	15.7	-1.2	5.6	-2.4	-2.8	4.0	-7.7	-4.5	-12.1	-14.8	-10.2		
Ontario																	
Waind River	-2.2	3.2	0.8	-2.2	-0.2	-13.8	11.7	2.8	0.0	-15.4	1.7	0.0	-15.9	25.4	-4.5		
Wainleau	-3.1	-1.8	0.5	-11.9	-1.6	14.4	2.0	-4.9	3.5	13.5	-6.6	-8.3	-15.2	-20.4	-11.8		
Wainarane	2.4	5.4	5.0	-4.9	-0.1	7.5	2.0	-0.8	7.3	13.0	-5.8	0.0	9.0	-0.9	1.2		
Wainot Lake	2.0	6.9	1.2	8.2	-0.8	-2.6	5.3	6.9	-4.2	0.5	1.0	9.2	-2.8	-11.3	-1.6		
Wainnola	1.8	1.2	3.9	4.3	6.4	-1.1	8.1	4.8	2.8	-0.3	-3.9	-28.1	-4.4	12.7	-3.6		
Wainst	-0.4	4.1	4.1	-3.9	-0.6	1.3	6.1	3.0	8.2	4.1	-0.5	-15.0	-17.1	3.7	-7.8		
Wainquois Falls	-3.2	-0.7	-0.3	-12.3	-5.6	-3.8	5.5	-1.2	-9.0	2.7	-6.5	3.9	1.5	-17.2	-2.2		
Wainaskasing	2.0	1.6	-0.5	14.5	9.5	1.2	-1.4	-1.3	-19.9	6.5	1.0	-33.4	-0.3	15.7	0.1		
Wainland Lake	1.9	5.3	-0.4	-2.1	1.3	-1.8	5.4	-3.8	4.0	11.2	6.4	12.3	-6.6	12.2	2.2		
Waintoulin Island	-0.3	0.0	-1.7	-2.5	-0.1	2.5	14.9	19.3	2.9	4.5	-4.8	0.0	-25.0	-5.3	-12.0		
Wainenee	1.3	3.1	-0.6	-0.3	-0.6	7.5	8.1	2.6	4.4	1.0	3.6	1.1	-12.7	7.7	-2.3		
Wainliskeard	1.8	-2.4	4.4	3.3	-1.0	16.6	2.5	13.4	0.0	1.4	-4.6	-22.1	-3.1	14.6	-3.7		
Wainth Bay	-1.7	-5.1	1.7	-5.6	4.7	-8.8	-4.2	14.2	-2.2	0.1	1.1	-2.8	-5.4	-5.4	-2.5		
Waint St. Marie	0.7	-0.8	0.1	-5.3	4.9	0.1	10.2	1.5	3.0	5.8	-2.5	-22.6	-3.6	18.6	-1.8		
Waingeon Falls	-1.8	-5.5	-1.0	-3.3	5.7	-2.3	0.3	-9.1	0.4	8.5	-6.0	-4.5	-10.6	27.7	-4.2		
Wainbury	1.8	0.5	6.7	-4.9	9.2	4.3	-1.7	2.8	5.0	8.4	-3.4	15.1	1.0	1.3	0.1		
Wainbins	2.9	-0.9	5.6	7.9	4.0	3.3	8.1	9.9	-0.5	-1.2	-5.7	13.2	-3.3	10.9	0.4		
Wain	-1.1	14.6	2.2	-10.4	6.4	3.0	11.5	0.1	-3.1	1.6	-4.0	-3.1	-20.1	-22.1	-12.8		

: Specials are included for all locations.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 Ontario communities were monitored. In August, 1981, Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely related to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 percent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres in Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 55 percent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores where possible. In some small communities only two stores could be monitored. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability are often encountered in some of the more remote and smaller communities, appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size. Staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

- . Dairy and Eggs;
- . Cereals and Bread;
- . Canned Fruits and Vegetables (including canned juices);
- . Fresh Fruits and Vegetables;
- . Dry Groceries;
- . Oils and Fats;
- . Jams and Syrups;
- . Other Groceries; and
- . Meats (including beef, frozen lamb, pork and poultry).

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. Other calculations included a comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres as well as percentage changes in prices from previous month for all centres.

CA20N
20
- F56

Government
Publications

Report #52

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



June 1987

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #52

JUNE, 1987

PREPARED BY:

Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer and
Commercial Relations

June, 1987

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
FOOD PRICE HIGHLIGHTS	3
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	4
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	7
APPENDICES:	
Scope of Monitoring & Methodology	10

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: March 6, 1986 to March 5, 1987 June 5, 1986 to June 4, 1987 March 5, 1987 to June 4, 1987	2
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario: December 1986, March 1987 and June, 1987	5
2a. A 3-Store Average Price of Easily Comparable Items in 37 Ontario Communities as of June 4, 1987	6
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres: September 4, 1986 to December 4, 1986 December 4, 1986 to March 5, 1987	8
March 5, 1986 to June 4, 1987	
3a. Percentage Change in Prices by Category for All Centres: March, 1987 to June 1987	9

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

Toronto food prices as measured by the 72 regularly monitored food items showed a decline of 0.4 percent over the quarter March to June, 1987. Prices increased by 6.6 percent from a year earlier.

Quarterly declines were noted in categories such as beverages (15.2 percent); dry groceries (3.2 percent); jams and syrups (1.8 percent); pork (2.9 percent) and poultry (11.4 percent).

The decline in the beverages category reflected reductions in the regular price of some items of coffee and specials on other items of coffee as well as tea.

Retail coffee prices appear to be responding to the decline in world coffee bean prices, triggered by an abundance of coffee beans on the world market as Brazil's crop recovers from the effects of the 1985-86 drought. Retail coffee prices increased significantly last year due to crop reductions.

The dry groceries category reflected reductions in the price of dried beans which had increased significantly over the past year due to wet weather affecting supply.

Declines in the other three categories were mainly due to the effects of specials featured on items in each category during the June monitoring.

All other categories registered price increases mainly due to the lifting of March specials and slight increases on some items, which offset the effects of June specials on other items.

The largest increase was in the fresh fruit and vegetables category (24.4 percent) which reflected seasonally higher prices due to depletion of storage stocks and higher prices for imports.

Significant annual increases noted in categories such as fresh fruit and vegetables, groceries and pork were largely due to the combined effect of the lifting of June 1986 specials and higher regular prices.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

TABLE 1: Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

CATEGORY	No. of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison		Quarterly Comparison
		March 6/86 -March 5/87	June 5/86 -June 4/87	March 5/87 -June 4/87
Dairy and Eggs	5	0.8	3.3	3.8
Cereals and Bread	7	6.3	4.9	3.1
Beverage	5	-2.9	-19.5	-15.2
Canned Fruits & Vegetables				
Canned Fruit	2	-2.5	-1.8	5.1
Canned Vegetable	4	-7.0	-1.8	3.1
Canned Juices	4	-0.5	3.6	1.3
Fresh Fruit & Vegetable	10	13.6	41.2	24.4
Dry Groceries	7	28.5	33.2	-3.2
Oils and Fat	4	5.4	4.2	1.0
Jams and Syrup	3	8.4	9.4	-1.8
Other Groceries	6	17.1	13.9	0.4
Meats				
Beef	6	8.7	7.2	0.3
Lamb	1	14.9	0.0	5.5
Pork	5	15.6	15.0	-2.9
Poultry	3	14.1	-2.9	-11.4
Total	72	8.0	6.6	-0.4

FOOD PRICE HIGHLIGHTS

Coffee

The June 1987 food price monitoring noted declines in coffee prices in many Ontario communities surveyed. These retail price declines are attributed to the significant decline in world coffee prices to near 1985 predrought levels, and expectations of a dramatic improvement in Brazil's 1987-88 crop.

Retail coffee prices had escalated in 1986 due to higher world coffee bean prices, triggered by the 1985 drought in Brazil.

Retail coffee prices are expected to continue to show slight decreases in the coming months.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

This food group showed seasonal price increases due to depletion of storage vegetable stocks from 1986 harvest and higher prices for imports. The U.S. Spring 1987 potato crop which was smaller than in 1986 is affecting the price of potato imports. Potato prices are expected to reflect this trend until the 1987 crops become available. It is expected that the abundance of this crop will put downward pressure on potato prices.

Salad vegetable prices increased as supplies shifted from winter to spring production areas. Prices are expected to decline as supplies increase from imports and domestic production.

Beef

Increases recorded in retail beef prices were attributed to increases in cattle prices paid to producers in May. The major factor exerting upward pressure on cattle prices has been reduced production in Canada and the U.S. due to herd rebuilding. This scenario is expected to last into the third quarter. However, increased supplies of competing meats might help to offset or moderate the effects of low meat supply.

Increased demand for some meat cuts during the barbecue season has also helped to exert upward pressure on beef prices.

Retail beef prices will likely continue to show slight increases.

Pork

Increases in the prices of fresh pork and cured meat reflect increases in the price paid to hog producers and lower U.S. production. Pork production in both Canada and the U.S. is expected to increase in the third quarter of 1987 and will likely put downward pressure on both producer and retail prices.

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND
36 OTHER COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored in June 1987 was lower than Toronto in six of the other seven Southern Ontario communities surveyed. The price spread between Toronto and all other seven Southern Ontario communities narrowed, reflecting an improvement in Toronto prices compared to these other communities.

Northwestern Ontario

Total price was lower in four of the eleven Northwestern Ontario communities surveyed. The price spread narrowed in seven communities and widened in four others often reflecting price improvements in Toronto in relation to these communities.

Northeastern Ontario

Total price was lower in 15 of the 18 Northeastern Ontario communities monitored. The differential narrowed in 14 communities and widened in four others.

A comparison of price differentials between Toronto and all other communities monitored can be found in Table 2. Table 2a shows the average price of easily comparable items in 37 Ontario communities as of June 4, 1987.

Table 2:
Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other
Communities in Ontario

COMMUNITY	DEC. 4/86 % Difference from Toronto	MAR. 5/87 % Difference from Toronto	JUNE 4/87 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>Southern Ontario</u>			
Hamilton	-3.0	-6.5	-4.4
Kingston	0.1	-3.2	0.7
London	-2.5	-4.6	-2.3
Ottawa	-3.0	-9.0	-7.7
Owen Sound	-5.1	-5.6	-4.3
Peterborough	-2.3	-3.2	-1.9
Windsor	-3.6	-4.4	-3.4
<u>Northwestern Ontario</u>			
Atikokan	3.7	1.3	2.4
Dryden	-0.8	-2.9	0.0
Fort Frances	-7.3	-9.0	-3.5
Geraldton	-3.1	-3.4	-3.2
Ignace	2.5	-1.4	1.2
Kenora	-6.1	-9.9	-6.6
Marathon	2.7	3.1	5.5
Rainy River	0.2	0.0	1.2
Red Lake	6.3	3.0	2.6
Sioux Lookout	4.0	2.1	5.7
Thunder Bay	-7.0	-8.7	-5.1
<u>Northeastern Ontario</u>			
Blind River	-3.5	-7.2	-2.1
Chapleau	1.8	-3.8	2.0
Cochrane	-3.3	-3.3	-1.3
Elliot Lake	-5.4	-5.9	-5.2
Espanola	-5.4	-6.0	-2.2
Hearst	1.0	-1.8	-2.1
Iroquois Falls	-3.7	-8.9	-9.0
Kapuskasing	-1.0	-1.5	-1.9
Kirkland Lake	-6.3	-6.8	-5.4
Manitoulin Island	0.4	-2.2	1.3
Moosonee	9.5	8.3	5.4
New Liskeard	-6.0	-6.6	-4.4
North Bay	-2.5	-6.5	-4.0
Sault Ste. Marie	-7.3	-8.9	-5.6
Sturgeon Falls	-1.4	-5.6	-5.2
Sudbury	-4.2	-4.8	-4.6
Timmins	-6.5	-6.2	-7.9
Wawa	-3.7	-7.1	-4.4

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of
Consumer and Commercial Relations

TABLE 2a: 3-Store Average* of Easily Comparable Food Items in 37 Ontario Communities, June 4, 1987

Community	Dollars										
	Butter 1 lb.	Milk 4L	Eggs 1 doz.	Dry Cereal 350 g.	Flour 3.5kg.	Coffee Instant 10 oz.	Canned Corn 7 oz.	Tomato Juice 48 oz.	Bananas 1 lb. Sugar 2 kg.	Sirloin Steak 1 lb.	Whole Chicken 1 lb.
Toronto	2.78	2.99	1.43	1.85	5.65	8.11	.825	1.72s	.69 1.82	5.69	2.09
S. Ontario											
Hamilton	2.15s	2.48	1.09s	2.06	5.49	8.11	.75s	1.52s	.65 1.35s	5.09	1.65
Kingston	2.65	2.99	1.43	1.83	6.22	8.11	.89	1.89	.69 1.99	5.17	1.82
London	2.55	2.99	1.29	1.81	5.45	8.48	.82s	1.72s	.69 1.49	5.52	1.75s
Ottawa	2.12s	2.52	.96s	1.71	5.72	6.57	.80s	1.47s	.39s .89s	4.44s	1.45
Pen Sound	2.49	2.99	1.29	1.80	5.74	7.17s	.79s	1.59s	.64 1.42	4.49s	1.64
Peterborough	2.72	2.92	1.29	1.78	5.28	8.11	.75s	1.22s	.69 1.29s	5.25	1.49
Windsor	2.72	2.79	1.36	1.79	5.32	8.11	.76s	1.45s	.61 1.49	5.62	2.09
E.W. Ontario											
Chatham	2.70	4.47	1.49	1.65	4.42	8.36	.79	2.05	.59 1.49	4.39	1.59
Chryden	2.58	4.33	1.34s	1.55	4.60	8.73	.84	1.79	.51s 1.62	5.28	1.83
Port Frances	2.57	4.33	1.53	1.59	4.40	7.42	.87	1.92	.87 2.35	3.57s	1.78
Stratford	2.79	3.99	1.64	1.52	5.02	8.74	.75	1.37	.69 1.74	4.49	1.84
Windsor	2.69s	4.30	1.35s	1.63	5.15	8.30	.84	1.84	.77 1.64	5.23	1.74
Windsor	2.49	4.30	1.25	1.20s	4.86	7.14	.59s	1.50	.55 1.30	5.99	1.89
Windsor	2.59	4.37	1.52	1.79	5.56	10.36	.89	1.94	.79 1.50s	5.71	1.84
Windsor	2.89	4.64	1.69	1.67	5.14	8.41	.83	2.05	.57 1.52	4.08	1.84
Windsor	2.82	4.44	1.49	1.64	5.00	8.11	.85	1.89	.67s 1.42	4.79	1.63s
Windsor	2.70	4.45	1.49	1.67	5.35	8.90	.79	1.75	.74 1.37s	5.54	1.65s
Windsor	2.44s	2.99	1.04s	1.59	5.09	8.24	.81	1.89	.69 1.74	4.69s	1.13s
E. Ontario											
Windsor	2.29	2.69s	1.35	1.49	5.69	10.61	.89	1.79	.49 1.29	3.89	1.49
Windsor	2.65	4.79	1.19s	1.81	5.88	8.86	.88	1.24s	.78 1.74	5.37	1.49s
Windsor	2.29	3.62	1.47	1.72	5.49	9.68	.87	1.78	.59 1.29s	3.54	1.44
Windsor	2.29	2.69s	1.09	1.49	5.59	9.03s	.74	1.74	.54 1.14	4.49	1.34
Windsor	2.44	2.69	1.09	1.67	5.86	9.34	.86	1.74	.59 1.29	4.83	1.14s
Windsor	2.60	3.99	1.29s	1.56	5.70	9.49	.80	.99s	.74 1.54	4.84	1.89
Windsor	2.29s	2.69s	1.42	1.55	5.71	9.30s	.84	1.34s	.49 1.29	3.39	1.49
Windsor	2.49	4.18	1.44	1.85	5.99	8.11	.89	1.89	.79 1.29	5.79	2.19
Windsor	2.09s	3.38	1.34	1.37s	5.99	8.13	.88	1.35s	.65 1.29	4.89	1.52
Windsor	2.70	4.19	1.53	1.87	6.04	10.02	.90	1.39s	.64 1.69s	4.99	1.24s
Windsor	2.86	4.99	1.79s	1.78	5.46	10.47	.93	1.77	.90 1.99	4.69	1.82
Windsor	2.29	2.69	1.29	1.67s	5.87	8.42s	.87	1.89	.59s 1.29	4.89	1.14s
Windsor	2.52	2.69s	1.09	1.81	5.82	8.61	.89	1.69s	.69 1.29	4.74	1.85
Windsor	2.29	2.69s	1.09	1.73	5.77	8.60	.69s	1.75s	.62s 1.29	4.45s	1.25
Windsor	2.49	2.69s	1.24	1.81	5.93	7.17s	.84	1.64	.69 1.14	4.78	1.74
Windsor	2.49	2.69s	1.15	1.85	5.66	7.48s	.82s	1.69s	.69 1.09s	4.47	2.04
Windsor	2.29	2.69s	1.09	1.61	5.73	8.73	.74s	1.49	.56 1.19s	4.25	1.25s
Windsor	2.29	3.98	1.14s	1.67	5.84	6.86	.87	.99s	.64 1.29	4.49	1.29

NOTE: Specials are included in all locations

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES
FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER FOR ALL CENTRES

Between March and June 1987, the total price of the 72 items monitored declined in 10 of the 37 communities monitored. Decreases ranged from 0.1 percent in Sturgeon Falls to 3.2 percent in Moosonee. Prices increased in 27 other communities ranging from 0.3 percent in Elliot Lake to 5.5 percent in Fort Francis and Chapleau.

The largest price increases were for fresh fruits and vegetables, beef, lamb and pork. As in the case of Toronto, fresh fruit and vegetable prices reflected seasonal influences. Notable increases in lamb prices in communities such as Hamilton, London, Kenora, Espanola, Kapuskasing and Sault Ste. Marie were mainly due to the lifting of March specials.

Prices for beef, fresh pork and cured meat reflected higher prices paid to cattle and hog farmers in May. Some other communities featured specials which helped to moderate prices in these categories. Price declines in the beverages category continued to reflect lower coffee prices.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are shown in Table 3.

Table 3a gives the price movement of 72 items by category for all centres for the period March to June 1987.

Table 3:

Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres

COMMUNITY	SEPT. 4/86 to DEC. 4/86 % Difference	DEC. 4/86 to MARCH 5/87 % Difference	MAR. 5/87 to JUNE 4/87 % Difference
Toronto	2.7	2.4	-0.4
<u>Southern Ontario</u>			
Hamilton	1.8	-1.2	1.8
Kingston	3.7	-0.9	3.6
London	2.9	0.3	1.9
Ottawa	5.2	-3.9	1.0
Owen Sound	2.9	2.0	0.8
Peterborough	2.9	1.6	0.8
Windsor	-0.3	1.6	0.5
<u>Northwestern Ontario</u>			
Atikokan	0.5	0.0	0.6
Dryden	-2.1	0.2	2.5
Fort Frances	-2.5	0.5	5.5
Geraldton	0.0	2.1	-0.2
Ignace	-0.7	-1.5	2.2
Kenora	-0.7	-1.6	3.1
Marathon	3.7	2.8	1.9
Rainy River	-2.8	2.1	0.8
Red Lake	0.7	-0.7	-0.8
Sioux Lookout	-1.5	0.6	3.0
Thunder Bay	1.0	0.6	3.4
<u>Northeastern Ontario</u>			
Blind River	2.9	-2.2	4.9
Chapleau	3.4	-3.1	5.5
Cochrane	2.2	2.4	1.6
Elliot Lake	1.1	2.0	0.3
Espanola	0.4	1.8	3.7
Hearst	3.7	-0.4	-0.8
Iroquois Falls	3.5	-3.2	-0.5
Kapuskasing	-1.2	2.0	-0.9
Kirkland Lake	-0.4	1.9	1.1
Manitoulin Island	-1.7	-0.3	3.1
Moosonee	2.9	1.3	-3.1
New Liskeard	0.6	1.8	1.8
North Bay	5.0	-1.7	2.3
Sault Ste. Marie	0.9	0.7	3.1
Sturgeon Falls	3.0	-1.8	-0.1
Sudbury	1.5	1.8	-0.2
Timmins	1.2	2.9	-2.2
Wawa	0.5	-1.1	2.3

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, Mar. 1987 to June 1987 (Percentage Change)

	Canned														
	Dairy			Fruits			Fresh Dry			Oils			Jams		
	% Change	Eggs	Bread	eggs	Juices	& Veg.	Fruit	Groc.	&	Fats	Syrups	eries	Beef	Lamb	Pork Poultry Mea-
to	-0.4	3.8	3.1	-15.2	2.6	24.4	-3.2	1.0	-1.8	04.	0.3	5.5	-2.9	-11.4	-2.3
ntario															
ton	1.8	-8.8	5.9	-0.1	1.7	17.5	-5.7	5.2	-5.4	-1.8	11.4	61.4	2.0	-17.5	5.8
ton	3.6	1.5	3.5	0.6	4.5	26.9	2.3	-1.4	-2.7	-3.6	1.4	11.6	-1.4	22.5	3.2
n	1.9	-0.3	0.2	-3.7	5.1	21.6	-3.9	2.5	-0.1	-0.8	2.9	25.3	2.9	-4.4	3.2
a	1.0	2.0	-1.0	-2.7	-6.6	17.6	13.5	0.2	6.2	0.7	2.9	-9.1	-8.8	-2.6	-3.4
Sound	0.8	-0.2	4.0	5.2	-1.9	20.2	-6.8	1.1	3.3	-7.1	-10.9	12.4	13.5	-16.1	-2.3
borough	0.8	-1.8	2.1	-0.9	-3.4	21.2	-7.6	-3.7	-0.2	-2.2	-3.9	0.3	8.6	13.9	3.3
or	0.5	-1.0	-1.6	0.4	-1.2	31.7	-5.5	-3.1	7.3	-9.0	7.0	-32.2	-3.4	0.2	-1.1
Ontario															
kan	0.6	1.8	-2.2	-11.9	7.1	19.7	3.6	8.1	4.5	1.2	-6.5	0.0	-0.4	5.6	-2.3
n	2.5	0.0	2.5	-0.2	5.3	31.5	2.9	0.9	0.6	4.8	-0.7	-14.8	-8.9	3.6	-3.4
Frances	5.5	7.7	18.7	-1.0	9.2	14.5	0.4	-1.1	1.8	13.0	-3.2	6.8	7.9	-0.5	1.8
dton	-0.2	-2.2	6.9	-8.7	1.9	15.2	-4.6	-7.5	-5.2	7.7	4.6	0.0	-5.4	1.9	0.0
e	2.2	0.2	1.3	-0.9	1.2	0.8	6.8	-2.2	0.4	2.0	18.2	9.4	-8.1	13.6	5.7
a	3.1	-2.0	0.0	-12.7	-5.5	22.9	10.7	1.1	4.1	-4.7	19.5	14.8	7.4	-0.3	11.7
hon	1.9	3.9	0.9	-3.7	0.0	22.3	-1.3	6.5	3.0	-2.7	7.0	0.0	-7.2	5.1	0.3
River	0.8	0.5	-2.8	6.1	3.2	-0.1	-5.2	-7.0	11.0	14.8	4.0	0.0	-5.8	-5.8	-1.6
ake	-0.8	2.5	-5.8	-6.8	2.9	17.0	-3.9	-1.6	-1.7	-7.2	-5.5	3.2	11.1	-12.9	-0.5
Lookout	3.0	3.3	0.9	-8.9	4.3	23.0	-4.6	1.1	-1.5	3.4	9.6	-4.7	16.0	-0.6	9.1
er Bay	3.4	0.9	-1.5	-2.5	4.2	36.3	-5.2	6.4	1.6	4.8	4.1	6.9	3.1	-3.6	2.9
Ontario															
d River	4.9	1.5	-3.0	0.0	8.7	28.7	1.9	5.2	1.5	-1.2	10.3	0.0	9.6	9.0	8.8
leau	5.5	1.5	-1.6	0.4	5.2	13.3	6.1	7.1	-2.5	5.8	9.6	0.0	22.7	-4.3	11.9
rane	1.6	-1.9	2.1	-1.1	0.2	11.1	-0.6	1.1	0.8	1.0	11.1	0.0	-0.8	-2.3	3.5
ot Lake	0.3	-6.7	-1.1	-4.2	-2.5	14.6	-1.3	0.0	6.9	1.0	0.1	-1.1	8.0	-3.2	2.7
nola	3.7	4.1	0.0	-1.4	3.4	30.0	-2.3	-0.1	3.1	2.1	6.0	24.0	8.6	-23.4	3.6
st	-0.8	-1.6	0.8	-13.9	-1.4	17.2	10.4	1.9	1.2	-1.3	5.5	-26.4	-1.4	-28.5	-4.4
ouis Falls	-0.5	-0.6	1.4	-9.9	13.2	17.4	-17.9	10.0	-0.4	-8.3	-5.9	0.0	8.6	5.0	1.6
skasing	-0.9	-6.6	4.0	-9.6	-3.0	11.5	-3.7	-12.3	5.1	-11.1	5.5	49.7	2.2	11.7	7.0
land Lake	1.1	-5.1	4.1	-5.1	0.3	24.3	-1.3	7.8	-1.3	-0.2	-2.1	-26.6	7.2	-6.0	-1.0
oulain Island	3.1	0.1	6.2	-2.9	3.4	16.0	1.5	-6.7	2.1	-2.9	2.7	0.0	29.8	-10.1	9.3
enee	-3.1	-4.1	-4.2	-12.9	-1.2	10.8	3.7	-5.1	0.4	-1.9	-3.6	-0.7	-0.1	-22.8	-4.9
Liskeard	1.8	4.5	1.6	-7.4	3.3	16.8	-7.9	0.1	1.6	-1.6	7.1	2.0	6.3	7.2	6.4
h Bay	2.3	1.8	3.6	2.8	1.6	25.9	4.3	-8.8	-3.3	2.4	-3.7	2.5	-2.2	3.2	-1.8
t St. Marie	3.1	0.0	11.8	-3.8	4.9	30.4	-0.1	-1.1	2.1	-1.7	-0.3	29.3	2.8	-19.4	-0.3
geon Falls	-0.1	1.0	12.2	-16.8	0.8	23.4	-0.2	7.9	0.2	-4.0	-5.4	4.7	-3.1	-4.6	-3.9
bury	-0.2	-3.2	4.5	-14.8	5.4	26.7	1.4	0.9	-12.2	3.2	0.0	-1.1	-2.4	-7.1	-2.1
hins	-2.2	1.9	0.1	-7.0	-2.8	11.1	-2.7	0.0	-3.7	-0.7	-0.8	-22.7	-4.0	-24.2	-6.7
	2.3	0.8	1.2	-10.7	3.0	24.6	-16.8	8.2	2.4	2.3	15.5	-17.5	17.0	-2.0	11.1

Specials are included for all locations.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 Ontario communities were monitored. In August, 1981, Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely related to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 percent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres in Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 55 percent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores where possible. In some small communities only two stores could be monitored. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability are often encountered in some of the more remote and smaller communities, appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size. Staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

- . Dairy and Eggs;
- . Cereals and Bread;
- . Canned Fruits and Vegetables (including canned juices);
- . Fresh Fruits and Vegetables;
- . Dry Groceries;
- . Oils and Fats;
- . Jams and Syrups;
- . Other Groceries; and
- . Meats (including beef, frozen lamb, pork and poultry).

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. Other calculations included a comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres as well as percentage changes in prices from previous month for all centres.

CR 4/11
03
- F56

Report #53



Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program

September 1987

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #53

SEPTEMBER, 1987

PREPARED BY:

Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer and
Commercial Relations

September, 1987

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	3
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	6
APPENDICES:	
Scope of Monitoring & Methodology	9

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto:	
June 5, 1986 to June 4, 1987	
September 4, 1986 to September 3, 1987	
June 4, 1987 to September 3, 1987	2
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario:	
March 1987, June, 1987 and Sept. 1987	4
2a. A 3-Store Average Price of Easily Comparable Items in 37 Ontario Communities as of September 3, 1987	5
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres:	
December 4, 1986 to March 5, 1987	
March 5, 1987 to June 4, 1987	
June 4, 1987 to Sept. 3, 1987	7
3a. Percentage Change in Prices by Category for All Centres:	
June 1987 to Sept. 1987	8

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

Over the quarter June to September, 1987, Toronto food prices as measured by 72 regularly monitored food items declined by 1.3 percent. Prices increased by 3.4 percent from a year earlier.

The largest price decrease over the quarter was fresh fruit and vegetables (30.3 percent) and lamb (8.9 percent). Decreases were noted in other categories such as dairy and eggs (1.9 percent); beverages (1.0 percent); canned fruit (1.2 percent); oils and fats (1.3 percent) and other groceries (1.6 percent).

The significant decrease in the fresh fruit and vegetable category reflected lower retail apple prices due to increased supplies from the 1987 crop, as well as lower prices for storable vegetables such as potatoes, carrots and onions.

Lower lamb prices were largely due to specials which were featured during the September monitoring.

Coffee prices continued to reflect large world supplies. An October agreement between coffee producing and consuming countries to reintroduce quotas is likely to stabilize coffee prices.

The largest quarterly price increases occurred in categories such as canned vegetables (12.5 percent); beef (4.8 percent); pork (6.0 percent) and poultry (16.4 percent).

A return to regular prices from June specials was largely responsible for the increase in the canned vegetables category. Upward pressure on poultry prices was largely due to the combined effect of low domestic production, increase in pork prices and lifting of June specials.

Retail pork prices especially cured meat reflected the lagged effect of second quarter increases in producer prices.

Significant annual increases in categories such as groceries and poultry were mainly due to the rebound from June 1986 specials combined with higher regular prices.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

TABLE 1: Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

CATEGORY	No. of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison		Quarterly Comparison
		June 5/86	Sept. 4/86	June 4/87
		- June 4/87	- Sept. 3/87	- Sept. 3/87
		% change	% change	% change
Dairy and Eggs	5	3.3	0.4	-1.9
Cereals and Bread	7	4.9	9.9	0.2
Beverage	5	-19.5	-14.3	-1.0
Canned Fruits & Vegetables				
Canned Fruit	2	-1.8	-4.4	-1.2
Canned Vegetable	4	-1.8	6.0	12.5
Canned Juices	4	3.6	6.9	2.4
Fresh Fruit & Vegetable	10	41.2	4.4	-30.3
Dry Groceries	7	33.2	16.4	0.4
Oils and Fat	4	4.2	3.9	-1.3
Jams and Syrup	3	9.4	7.7	0.0
Other Groceries	6	13.9	17.2	-1.6
Meats				
Beef	6	7.2	8.2	4.8
Lamb	1	0.0	-8.9	-8.9
Pork	5	15.0	-3.4	6.0
Poultry	3	-2.9	11.7	16.4
Total	72	6.6	3.4	-1.3

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 OTHER COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored in September, 1987 was lower than Toronto in six of the seven Southern Ontario communities surveyed. The price spread between Toronto and four communities narrowed, reflecting an improvement in Toronto prices relative to these other communities. The price spread remained stable in one community.

Northwestern Ontario

Total price was lower in three of the eleven Northwestern Ontario communities surveyed. The differential narrowed in five communities and widened in six others.

Northeastern Ontario

Total price was lower in 15 of the 18 Northeastern Ontario communities surveyed. The price spread narrowed in nine communities and widened in seven others, often reflecting price improvements in those communities in relation to Toronto.

A comparison of price differentials between Toronto and all other communities monitored can be found in Table 2. Table 2a shows the average price of easily comparable items in 37 Ontario communities as of September 4, 1987.

Table 2:
Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other
Communities in Ontario

COMMUNITY	MAR. 5/87 % Difference from Toronto	JUNE 4/87 % Difference from Toronto	Sept. 3/87 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>Southern Ontario</u>			
Hamilton	-6.5	-4.4	3.9
Kingston	-3.2	0.7	0.7
London	-4.6	-2.3	-1.9
Ottawa	-9.0	-7.7	-12.1
Owen Sound	-5.6	-4.3	-2.5
Peterborough	-3.2	-1.9	-0.2
Windsor	-4.4	-3.4	-3.6
<u>Northwestern Ontario</u>			
Atikokan	1.3	2.4	1.8
Dryden	-2.9	0.0	2.4
Fort Frances	-9.0	-3.5	0.5
Geraldton	-3.4	-3.2	-0.5
Ignace	-1.4	1.2	5.6
Kenora	-9.9	-6.6	-6.9
Marathon	3.1	5.5	6.3
Rainy River	0.0	1.2	0.7
Red Lake	3.0	2.6	4.4
Sioux Lookout	2.1	5.7	7.4
Thunder Bay	-8.7	-5.1	-4.9
<u>Northeastern Ontario</u>			
Blind River	-7.2	-2.1	-5.3
Chapleau	-3.8	2.0	-2.0
Cochrane	-3.3	-1.3	-1.2
Elliot Lake	-5.9	-5.2	-6.0
Espanola	-6.0	-2.2	-4.4
Hearst	-1.8	-2.1	-5.0
Iroquois Falls	-8.9	-9.0	-6.7
Kapuskasing	-1.5	-1.9	*
Kirkland Lake	-6.8	-5.4	-8.4
Manitoulin Island	-2.2	1.3	0.9
Moosonee	8.3	5.4	8.4
New Liskeard	-6.6	-4.4	-2.9
North Bay	-6.5	-4.0	-2.6
Sault Ste. Marie	-8.9	-5.6	-5.0
Sturgeon Falls	-5.6	-5.2	-3.1
Sudbury	-4.8	-4.6	-3.0
Timmins	-6.2	-7.9	-6.3
Wawa	-7.1	-4.4	-7.9

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

*Data for Kapuskasing were not computed due to technical problems.

TABLE 2a: 3-Store Average* of Easily Comparable Food Items in 37 Ontario Communities, June 4, 1987

	Dollars											
	Butter	Milk	Eggs	Dry Cereal	Flour	Coffee Instant	Canned Corn	Tomato Juice	Bananas	Sugar	Sirloin Steak	Whole Chicken
community	1 lb.	4L	1 doz.	350 g.	3.5kg.	10 oz.	7 oz.	48 oz.	1 lb.	2 kg.	1 lb.	1 lb.
oronto	2.79	3.19	1.30s	1.85	5.65	7.48	.875	1.89	.555	1.82	5.25	2.19
<u>N. Ontario</u>												
amilton	2.39	2.64	1.30s	1.85	5.15	7.48s	.91	1.69	.49s	1.09s	4.24s	1.75
Kingston	2.62	3.19	1.44	1.85	6.29	8.25	.84	1.89	.65	1.82	5.32	1.69
ondon	2.15s	2.99s	1.29	1.85	5.65	7.48s	.87s	1.89	.55	1.49	4.59s	2.09
ttawa	2.69	2.59s	1.09	1.61	5.18	6.24	.64s	1.42s	.49	.89s	4.05	1.52s
wen Sound	2.74s	2.89s	1.29	1.85	5.74	8.11	.87s	1.59s	.59	1.24s	5.89	1.60
eterborough	2.72	3.19	1.29	1.85	5.82	8.11	.89s	1.69s	.59	1.49	5.02	1.65s
indsor	2.54	2.92s	1.25	1.79	5.78	7.03	.84	1.79s	.65	1.29s	5.25	1.67s
<u>N.W. Ontario</u>												
Atikokan	2.70	4.82	1.49	1.70	5.25	8.74	.85	1.99	.49s	1.49	5.19	1.59
Dryden	2.64	4.48	1.34s	1.63	5.00	8.73	.83	1.77	.40s	1.55	4.07s	1.86
Fort Frances	2.57	4.20	1.30	1.59	4.03s	7.49	.85	1.92	.41	1.39	4.62	1.89
Geraldton	2.84	4.24	1.64	1.65	4.59s	8.74	.75	1.37	.49	1.74	4.32	1.89
Ignace	2.69	4.45	1.37	1.68	5.20	8.67	.83	1.84	.62	1.64	5.03	1.41
Kenora	2.58	4.24	1.26	1.11s	4.66	7.03	.59s	1.50	.31s	1.30	4.59	1.89
Marathon	2.59	4.82	1.52	1.79	4.97	10.11	.91	1.94	.39s	2.00	4.48	1.64
Rainy River	2.89	4.64	1.59	1.65	5.10	8.14	.85	1.89	.41s	1.54	4.03	1.85
Red Lake	2.95	4.50	1.49	1.69	5.29	8.36	.85	1.59	.49	1.43	5.34	1.19s
Sioux Lookout	2.76	4.52	1.49	1.72	5.37	8.78	.94	1.85	.52	1.76	5.54	1.39s
Thunder Bay	2.89	3.13s	1.38	1.59	5.16	7.80	.81	1.89	.51	1.74	4.09	1.59
<u>N.E. Ontario</u>												
Blind River	2.29s	2.99s	1.09s	1.49	4.61s	7.36s	.89	1.59s	.49	1.29s	3.89	1.49
Chapleau	2.65	4.89	1.48	1.85	5.88	8.86	.93	1.59s	.465	1.395	5.32	1.69
Cochrane	2.29	2.99	1.31	1.72	5.49	8.89	.90	1.89	.41	1.29s	3.89	1.34
Elliot Lake	2.29	2.99	1.09	1.47	5.59	7.80	.74	1.74s	.49	1.29s	3.89	1.62
Espanola	2.29	2.99	1.09	1.67s	5.86	7.80	.92	1.74	.49	1.29s	4.94	1.49s
Hearst	2.45	4.29	1.33s	1.56	5.68	7.80	.82	1.84	.41s	1.29s	4.39	1.69
Iroquois Falls	2.40	2.99s	1.09s	1.55	5.71	8.64	.88	1.59	.49	1.19	2.99s	1.49
Kapuskasing												
Kirkland Lake	2.52	3.38s	1.15	1.53s	5.41	7.16	.84s	1.52s	.50	1.29	4.29s	1.52
Manitoulin Island	2.70	3.99	1.58	1.87	6.19	9.08	.90	1.65	.69	1.94	4.93	1.44
Moosonee	2.85	5.47	1.84s	1.91	5.12s	10.47	.65	1.99	.51	2.14	4.15s	1.67
New Liskeard	2.29	2.99s	1.40	1.67s	5.87	8.11	.92	1.89	.59s	1.29	4.94s	1.84s
North Bay	2.45	2.99s	1.09	1.85	5.49	8.23	.95	1.69s	.59	1.35	5.19	1.83s
Sault St. Marie	2.19s	2.99s	1.09s	1.55s	5.86	8.11	.87	1.79	.59	1.29	4.15	1.49
Sturgeon Falls	2.64	3.14	1.24	1.85	5.74	6.86	.89	1.89	.54s	1.14	4.99s	1.69
Sudbury	2.32	2.99	1.22	1.85	5.59	7.48	.93	1.92	.49	1.35	3.65	1.85
Timmins	2.32	2.69	1.09	1.61s	5.72	8.07	.82s	1.77	.42s	1.29	4.29	1.32
Uawa	2.29	4.79	1.27s	1.67	5.30	8.11	.79s	1.29s	.41s	1.29	4.39	1.34

* NOTE: Specials are included in all locations

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM
PREVIOUS QUARTER FOR ALL CENTRES

During the quarter June to September, 1987, the total price of the 72 items monitored declined in 21 of the 37 communities monitored. Decreases ranged from 0.5 percent in Owen Sound to 6.1 percent in Ottawa. Prices increased in 14 other communities ranging from 0.1 percent in North Bay to 3.1 percent in Ignace.

Fresh fruit and vegetables registered significant decreases in all communities monitored except Kapuskasing. Due to technical problems, there were no computerized data for this community. Beverages and beef also decreased in many communities. However, some communities such as Owen Sound, Fort Frances, Iroquois Falls and Sturgeon Falls registered significant increases mainly due to the lifting of June specials and return to higher regular prices in some cases.

For reasons similar to those noted in Toronto prices, pork prices increased in many other communities and contributed to the upward pressure on the price of competing meats in some communities.

Prices in Ottawa registered significant declines due to September specials. As a result of the closure of one regularly monitored chain, a new store was monitored in this community. This new store featured many opening specials, resulting in a notable effect on total prices and differentials.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are shown in Table 3. Table 3a gives the price movement of the 72 items by category for all centres for the period June to September 1987.

Table 3

Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres

	Dec.4/86- March 5/87 % Difference	Mar.5/87- June 4/87 % Difference	June 4/87- Sept.3/87 % Difference
Toronto	2.4	-0.4	-1.3
<u>Southern Ontario</u>			
Hamilton	-1.2	1.8	-0.8
Kingston	-0.9	3.6	-1.1
London	0.3	1.9	-0.8
Ottawa	-3.9	1.0	-6.1
Owen Sound	2.0	0.8	-0.5
Peterborough	1.6	0.8	0.4
Windsor	1.6	0.5	-1.4
<u>Northwestern Ontario</u>			
Atikokan	0.0	0.6	-1.8
Dryden	0.2	2.5	1.1
Fort Frances	0.5	5.5	2.9
Geraldton	2.1	-0.2	1.4
Ignace	-1.5	2.2	3.1
Kenora	-1.6	3.1	-1.5
Marathon	2.8	1.9	-0.6
Rainy River	2.1	0.8	-1.8
Red Lake	-0.7	-0.8	0.5
Sioux Lookout	0.6	3.0	0.3
Thunder Bay	0.6	3.4	-1.0
<u>Northeastern Ontario</u>			
Blind River	-2.2	4.9	-5.2
Chapleau	-3.1	5.5	-5.2
Cochrane	2.4	1.6	-1.2
Elliot Lake	2.0	0.3	-2.1
Espanola	1.8	3.7	-3.5
Hearst	-0.4	-0.8	-4.2
Iroquois Falls	-3.2	-0.5	1.2
Kapuskasing	2.0	-0.9	*
Kirkland Lake	1.9	1.1	-4.4
Manitoulin Island	-0.3	3.1	-1.6
Moosonee	1.3	-3.1	1.5
New Liskeard	1.8	1.8	0.3
North Bay	-1.7	2.3	0.1
Sault Ste. Marie	0.7	3.1	-0.6
Sturgeon Falls	-1.8	-0.1	0.9
Sudbury	1.8	-0.2	0.4
Timmins	2.9	-2.2	0.3
Wawa	-1.1	2.3	-4.9

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of
Consumer and Commercial Relations

Note: Data for Kapuskasing were not computed due to technical problems.

Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, Mar. 1987 to June 1987 (Percentage Change)

	Canned																
	Dairy		Cereals		Fruits		Fresh Dry		Oils	Jams	Other		Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
	% Change	Eggs	Bread	Bever-	Veg.&	Fruit	Groc-	&	&	Groc-							
Ontario	-1.3	-1.9	0.2	-1.0	3.9	-30.3	0.4	-1.4	0.0	-1.6	4.8	-8.9	6.0	16.4	6.0		
Ontario																	
Halton	-0.8	1.2	-4.5	0.5	-0.7	-21.8	4.4	0.7	-3.2	8.6	-0.5	-28.8	5.3	22.8	2.3		
Kingston	-1.1	-4.5	1.6	-1.2	-1.1	-26.2	1.1	1.6	-0.4	0.2	-0.3	15.4	10.0	19.0	7.0		
London	-0.8	-2.3	6.6	-0.4	4.4	-25.2	1.2	-2.8	-1.0	-1.8	-2.5	-7.1	1.6	34.3	3.2		
Ottawa	-6.1	-12.3s	-4.1	-13.8	4.0	-19.1	-4.6	-8.9	-3.0	5.6	1.5	-2.7	-6.1	-7.8	-2.8		
Pelee Sound	-0.5	4.8	1.6	-1.7	2.7	-24.2	3.3	4.0	-34.0	19.1	19.8	-20.7	5.4	4.9	5.2		
Pearborough	0.4	2.3	1.8	1.8	9.3	-28.2	10.4	3.5	1.2	2.1	3.9	-18.1	1.9	-4.1	0.5		
Windsor	-1.4	-0.8	3.2	-9.8	6.2	-30.5	10.0	2.9	-12.2	-1.9	-0.6	-2.1	16.8	3.1	6.1		
Ontario																	
Atokan	-1.8	-2.5	3.4	-3.9	-2.1	-6.6	-11.3	-2.6	0.3	-1.5	-5.0	0.0	19.1	-7.2	3.5		
Arden	1.1	2.5	6.2	-1.8	0.1	-12.5	-8.5	2.9	-1.7	-1.1	3.2	20.3	24.4	-3.8	10.5		
Fort Frances	2.9	1.7	-6.6	-5.0	3.7	-5.6	-2.0	-6.8	2.1	10.4	21.2	11.7	18.7	12.9	18.4		
Georgetown	1.4	6.1	3.2	3.7	3.0	-21.8	2.9	-4.1	1.5	8.2	-3.7	-16.7	15.4	5.9	3.5		
Gloucester	3.1	9.5	4.8	2.4	1.8	-11.1	17.1	9.6	3.3	4.2	-2.0	-6.2	2.8	-10.5	-1.7		
Georgetown	-1.5	7.4	-2.8	-8.3	1.9	-26.2	2.5	14.8	-2.7	6.5	-7.0	-3.2	13.5	-11.6	-0.5		
Georgetown	-0.6	6.0	-3.2	-4.3	3.1	-21.7	6.0	3.1	0.0	3.9	-12.0	30.5	11.0	6.2	1.5		
Georgetown	-1.8	0.9	-0.8	-10.9	-5.1	-13.9	10.6	-3.0	3.5	-2.9	-10.6	0.0	10.2	9.7	0.8		
Georgetown	0.5	-2.1	7.9	-3.6	6.0	-11.5	-13.9	14.0	1.6	13.8	-1.4	0.0	7.6	2.7	2.6		
Georgetown	0.3	2.4	-0.4	-0.3	1.6	-9.2	7.5	2.0	2.0	1.4	-3.4	5.0	7.2	-18.8	-1.1		
Georgetown	-1.0	-7.3	2.6	-3.3	-0.2	-26.0	2.2	-4.5	3.5	-0.2	3.3	15.8	17.0	13.6	10.3		
Ontario																	
Georgetown	-5.2	0.0	-4.2	-17.1	2.7	-33.2	-4.2	13.3	-9.7	9.1	-6.8	0.0	3.8	-4.5	-1.4		
Georgetown	-5.2	2.7	4.2	-3.7	-0.6	-33.3	-4.8	-0.1	-10.6	-9.4	-7.8	17.7	-9.5	20.1	-4.0		
Georgetown	-1.2	-1.6	1.0	-1.4	3.0	-17.4	-0.9	0.4	1.0	0.0	-7.9	-5.0	9.1	5.8	0.8		
Georgetown	-2.1	-1.8	0.4	-6.7	4.7	-15.9	-2.5	0.4	1.3	3.6	-2.6	0.0	-3.0	7.7	-1.4		
Georgetown	-3.5	-2.6	0.8	-9.6	-3.7	-32.8	4.9	-0.5	-6.2	8.1	3.2	0.9	-1.0	18.5	2.9		
Georgetown	-4.2	-3.0	-3.0	-5.1	4.9	-28.0	-5.3	-1.8	0.4	7.4	-10.3	26.3	-3.1	8.2	-3.5		
Georgetown	1.2	6.8	-0.2	-2.2	-8.3	-27.8	13.5	-1.6	0.1	9.9	14.7	-13.0	13.2	-2.7	9.8		
Georgetown*	-4.4	-1.2	-4.8	-8.8	4.1	-31.8	0.4	6.4	1.4	-6.2	-3.8	29.9	-5.5	12.9	-0.5		
Georgetown	-1.6	1.2	2.3	-4.8	-5.4	-22.7	-5.7	9.8	3.5	4.8	-3.6	0.0	9.0	3.7	2.1		
Georgetown	1.5	7.8	2.1	5.3	5.4	-11.6	2.9	-5.0	0.4	0.7	-2.0	-5.5	0.0	9.5	-0.2		
Georgetown	0.3	1.1	-0.5	-1.5	3.2	-19.9	5.7	-1.7	-1.9	8.0	4.7	1.9	0.0	21.2	4.5		
Georgetown	0.1	3.7	-3.2	-0.9	3.1	-25.9	-3.5	3.8	5.6	0.9	9.7	0.4	20.8	-5.7	10.9		
Georgetown	-0.6	2.0	-1.7	-0.6	2.4	-33.0	0.7	-2.1	-3.2	2.8	3.4	-12.9	23.3	13.1	10.4		
Georgetown	0.9	1.3	-10.4	-1.4	4.0	-32.8	3.4	-2.8	-2.6	20.5	16.3	22.3	17.7	5.9	15.8		
Georgetown	0.4	0.8	-4.9	2.1	5.1	-33.0	3.0	-0.9	17.9	0.5	-1.8	0.0	22.4	8.2	9.0		
Georgetown	0.3	-2.1	0.4	-5.5	5.3	-19.6	-0.6	-0.4	3.7	1.9	-2.1	0.0	23.4	22.6	10.4		
Georgetown	-4.9	1.6	-2.9	0.7	5.1	-32.2	-0.5	4.2	-0.9	-3.8	-11.2	-11.6	-10.1	2.9	-9.0		

NOTE: Specials are included for all locations.

Special note: Data for Kapuskasing were not computed due to technical problems.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 Ontario communities were monitored. In August, 1981, Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely related to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 percent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres in Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 55 percent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores where possible. In some small communities only two stores could be monitored. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability are often encountered in some of the more remote and smaller communities, appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size. Staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

- . Dairy and Eggs;
- . Cereals and Bread;
- . Canned Fruits and Vegetables (including canned juices);
- . Fresh Fruits and Vegetables;
- . Dry Groceries;
- . Oils and Fats;
- . Jams and Syrups;
- . Other Groceries; and
- . Meats (including beef, frozen lamb, pork and poultry).

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. Other calculations included a comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres as well as percentage changes in prices from previous month for all centres.

Q422N
20
-F56

Report #54



Ontario

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



December 1987

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #54

DECEMBER, 1987

PREPARED BY:

Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer and
Commercial Relations

December, 1987

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
OUTLOOK FOR PRICES IN 1988	3
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	4
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	7
CHRISTMAS DINNER	11
APPENDICES:	
Scope of Monitoring & Methodology	12

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto:	2
September 4, 1986 to September 3, 1987 December 4, 1986 to December 3, 1987 September 3, 1987 to December 3, 1987	
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario:	5
June, 1987, September 1987 and December 1987	
2a. A 3-Store Average Price of Easily Comparable Items in 37 Ontario Communities as of December 3, 1987	6
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres:	9
March 5, 1987 to June 4, 1987 June 4, 1987 to Sept. 3, 1987 September 3, 1987 to December 3, 1987	
3a. Percentage Change in Prices by Category for All Centres:	10
September 1987 to December 1987	
4. Christmas Dinner, year-to-year comparison	11

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

Over the quarter September to December 1987, Toronto food prices as measured by the 72 regularly monitored food items declined by 0.8 percent. Prices declined by 0.1 percent from a year earlier.

The largest declines were noted in categories such as poultry (17.1 percent); dry groceries (9.0 percent); canned vegetables (7.6 percent) and canned juices (6.6 percent). Declines were noted in other categories such as cereals and bread (2.4 percent); beverages (0.1 percent); oils and fats (0.5 percent); jams and syrups (3.9 percent) and other groceries (1.9 percent).

These price declines were mainly due to the special featuring of items in each category. However, in the dry groceries category the decline reflected significantly lower regular prices for dried beans than the high price levels which had prevailed since December, 1986.

Dried bean prices had skyrocketed during the last quarter of 1986 due to a shortfall in supply triggered by bad fall weather conditions.

In the poultry category, large supplies of chicken together with increased specialling and lower pork prices have put downward pressure on retail prices.

All other categories registered price increases ranging from 19.5 percent in the fresh fruit and vegetable category to 0.2 percent in the beef category.

In the fresh fruit and vegetable category, prices were higher for all fresh vegetables. The largest increase was for lettuce, reflecting a reduction in the supply of imports from the U.S. due to bad weather conditions in California. The increase in the price of storable vegetables was mainly attributable to increased demand as consumers substituted for higher priced salad vegetables as well as the seasonal price increase which results from reduction in storable stocks.

Price increases in the other categories reflected the return to regular prices from specials which were featured during the September monitoring.

On an annual basis, increases ranged from 9.4 percent for lamb to 0.6 percent for pork. Price increases were mainly due to movements from specials a year ago as well as slightly higher regular prices attained during the year.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

TABLE 1: Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

CATEGORY	No. of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison		Quarterly Comparison
		Sept 4/86	Dec 4/86	Sept 3/87
		-Sept 3/87 % change	-Dec 3/87 % change	-Dec 3/87 % change
Dairy and Eggs	5	0.4	4.4	2.9
Cereals and Bread	7	9.9	6.3	-2.4
Beverage	5	14.3	-12.6	-0.1
Canned Fruits & Vegetables				
Canned Fruit	2	-4.4	11.0	2.4
Canned Vegetable	4	6.0	3.6	-7.6
Canned Juices	4	6.9	7.0	-6.6
Fresh Fruit & Vegetable	10	4.4	2.8	19.5
Dry Groceries	7	16.4	-4.5	-9.0
Oils and Fat	4	3.9	-0.1	-0.5
Jams and Syrup	3	7.7	-4.5	-3.9
Other Groceries	6	17.2	2.3	-1.9
Meats				
Beef	6	8.2	5.7	0.2
Lamb	1	-8.9	9.4	9.4
Pork	5	-3.4	0.6	1.9
Poultry	3	11.7	-12.5	-17.1
Total	72	3.4	-0.1	-0.8

OUTLOOK FOR PRICES IN 1988

Retail food prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index are expected to rise by 0% to 2% in 1988, compared to an increase of 4.4% in 1987. The food purchased from stores component is expected to remain stable or show a slight change (-1% to 1%).

Contributing to this moderate outlook are expectations of lower or stable farm commodity prices in most food groups. For example, although beef production for 1988 is expected to be smaller than 1987 in both Canada and the U.S., increased supplies of pork and poultry are likely to offset this reduction and any potential beef price increase.

Pork production in 1988 is expected to be well above that of 1987 and will likely exert downward pressure on producer prices. The retail prices of fresh and cured pork are expected to reflect this scenario by showing significant declines in 1988.

In the fresh fruit and vegetables category, based on storage holdings and crop estimates, it is expected that abundance of apples and storable vegetables will help to keep the retail prices of these products stable.

Prices in other major food categories are expected to be stable or show slight increases.

Main source: Agriculture Canada.

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 OTHER COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored in December, 1987 was lower than Toronto in all the other seven southern Ontario communities surveyed. The price spread between Toronto and all the other communities widened, reflecting a larger price decline in these communities than in Toronto.

Northwestern Ontario

Total price was lower in three of the eleven Northwestern Ontario communities surveyed. The price spread narrowed in five communities often reflecting price improvements in these communities in relation to Toronto. The price spread widened in six other communities, sometimes reflecting improvements in relation to Toronto.

Northeastern Ontario

Total price was lower in 17 of the 18 Northeastern Ontario communities surveyed. The price spread narrowed in four communities and widened in 13 others often reflecting price improvements in those communities in relation to Toronto. Kapuskasing was not compared as no data were available for September due to technical difficulties.

A comparison of price differentials between Toronto and all other communities monitored can be found in Table 2. Table 2a shows the average price of easily comparable items in 37 Ontario communities as of December 4, 1987.

Table 2:
 Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other
 Communities in Ontario

COMMUNITY	JUNE 4/87 % Difference from Toronto	Sept. 3/87 % Difference from Toronto	Dec. 3/87 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>Southern Ontario</u>			
Hamilton	-4.4	-3.9	-6.8
Kingston	0.7	0.7	-1.9
London	-2.3	-1.9	-3.7
Ottawa	-7.7	-12.1	-13.4
Owen Sound	-4.3	-2.5	-6.6
Peterborough	-1.9	-0.2	-1.4
Windsor	-3.4	-3.6	-7.4
<u>Northwestern Ontario</u>			
Atikokan	2.4	1.8	3.9
Dryden	0.0	2.4	1.2
Fort Frances	-3.5	0.5	1.4
Geraldton	-3.2	-0.5	-3.0
Ignace	1.2	5.6	4.7
Kenora	-6.6	-6.9	-9.8
Marathon	5.5	6.3	5.8
Rainy River	1.2	0.7	3.4
Red Lake	2.6	4.4	3.0
Sioux Lookout	5.7	7.4	9.0
Thunder Bay	-5.1	-4.9	-4.4
<u>Northeastern Ontario</u>			
Blind River	-2.1	-5.3	-4.9
Chapleau	2.0	-2.0	-3.2
Cochrane	-1.3	-1.2	-2.9
Elliot Lake	-5.2	-6.0	-10.4
Espanola	-2.2	-4.4	-8.0
Hearst	-2.1	-5.0	-2.1
Iroquois Falls	-9.0	-6.7	-12.3
Kapuskasing	-1.9	*	-1.3
Kirkland Lake	-5.4	-8.4	-12.3
Manitoulin Island	1.3	0.9	-0.8
Moosonee	5.4	8.4	8.0
New Liskeard	-4.4	-2.9	-5.1
North Bay	-4.0	-2.6	-3.8
Sault Ste. Marie	-5.6	-5.0	-8.2
Sturgeon Falls	-5.2	-3.1	-4.8
Sudbury	-4.6	-3.0	-4.1
Timmins	-7.9	-6.3	-8.2
Wawa	-4.4	-7.9	-8.1

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
 and Commercial Relations

*Data for Kapuskasing were not computed due to technical problems.

TABLE 2a: 3-Store Average* of Easily Comparable Food Items in 37 Ontario Communities, December 3, 1987

Community	Dollars										
	Butter 1 lb.	Milk 4L	Eggs 1 doz.	Dry Cereal 350 g.	Flour 3.5kg.	Coffee Instant 10 oz.	Canned Corn 7 oz.	Tomato Juice 48 oz.	Bananas 1 lb. Sugar 2 kg.	Sirloin Steak 1 lb.	Whole Chicken 1 lb.
Toronto	2.79	3.05	1.46	1.85	5.49s	7.69s	.75s	1.59s	.65 1.82	5.79	1.75
<u>S. Ontario</u>											
Hamilton	2.25s	2.69	1.05s	1.85	4.55	7.69s	.81s	1.92	.62 1.15s	4.65s	1.32s
Kingston	2.65	3.19	1.48	1.87	4.29s	7.49	.79	1.39s	.65 1.65	4.12	1.25s
London	2.49	2.59	1.29	1.85	5.85	7.49	.82s	1.89	.62 1.49	4.45	1.45s
Ottawa	2.53	2.59	1.09	1.54	5.12	6.24	.64	1.82	.42 .89	3.02	1.28s
Owen Sound	1.99s	1.88s	.99s	1.85	4.69s	7.80	1.10	1.89	.69s 1.49s	4.86	1.18
Peterborough	2.75	3.05	1.33	1.83s	5.79	7.69s	.89	1.89	.69 1.65	5.12s	1.69
Windsor	2.72	2.82	1.25	1.79	5.55	7.49	.84	1.52s	.59 1.29s	3.79	1.08
<u>N.W. Ontario</u>											
Atikokan	2.70	3.99	.99s	1.69	5.25	8.74	.85	1.99	.69 1.49	5.29	1.89
Dryden	2.61	4.63	1.34s	1.66	4.60	8.89	.87	1.34s	.49 1.47	5.26	1.75s
Fort Frances	2.58	5.20	1.27s	1.59	5.32	6.87s	.87	2.04	.38 2.35	3.89	1.79
Geraldton	2.84	3.89	1.64	1.65	5.12	8.74	.75	1.42	.67 1.74	4.24	1.63
Ignace	2.69	4.60	1.38	1.68	5.20	9.23	.92	1.84	.74 1.64	4.30	1.42
Kenora	2.70	4.47	1.26	1.74	4.66	5.26	.77	1.38	.53 1.18	4.84	1.78
Marathon	2.89	4.82	1.29s	1.79	4.73	7.80	.74s	1.97	.62 2.00	5.99	1.44
Rainy River	2.89	4.78	1.59	1.64	5.24	7.99	.91	2.06	.57 1.50	4.05	1.85
Red Lake	2.95	4.89	1.49	1.69	5.20	8.49	.85	1.99	.59 1.53	5.34	1.89
Sioux Lookout	2.82	4.67	1.42s	1.69	4.35s	9.99	.92	1.97	.63 1.55	4.94	1.88
Thunder Bay	2.89	3.17	1.42	1.59	5.03	7.86	.82	1.89	.69 1.89	4.59s	1.54
<u>N.E. Ontario</u>											
Blind River	2.29	2.99s	1.09	1.49	5.73	7.49	.69	1.97	.49 1.29	3.29	1.49
Chapleau	2.65	4.89	1.48	1.77	5.88	7.46	.93	1.84	.67 1.69s	4.19s	1.59
Cochrane	2.29	2.99s	1.24	1.67	5.24	7.48	.87	1.84	.57 1.52	3.69	1.38
Elliot Lake	2.29	2.99s	.99	1.49s	5.86	7.17s	.74	1.74s	.54 1.29s	3.39s	1.34
Espanola	2.29	2.99s	1.09	1.67	4.74s	7.80	.74	1.74	.59 1.29	3.49	1.62
Hearst	2.61	4.29	1.58	1.64	5.92	8.11	.86	1.79	.66 1.99	4.59	1.14
Iroquois Falls	2.40	2.99s	1.19	1.54	5.03s	8.73	.88	1.24s	.49 1.14	3.24	1.29s
Kapuskasing	2.60	4.13	1.22s	1.82	5.99	8.30	.91	1.89	.74 1.44	4.99	1.94
Kirkland Lake	2.29	2.71	1.15	1.73s	4.88s	6.65s	.69s	1.29	.55 1.18	3.52	1.29s
Manitoulin Island	2.44	3.49s	1.53	1.89	6.19	9.00	.97	1.50	.64 1.59	4.68	1.34s
Moosonee	2.68	5.37	1.64s	2.13	5.03	9.63	1.06	1.94	.81 1.92	4.79s	1.97
New Liskeard	2.29s	2.99s	1.09	1.67s	5.88	7.80	.89	1.89	.59s 1.29	3.54	1.54s
North Bay	2.45	2.89s	1.09	1.85	5.49s	7.69s	.89s	1.79	.69 1.29s	4.42	1.64s
Sault St. Marie	2.29s	2.99	1.09s	1.44s	5.86	7.69	.79	1.79	.62 1.29	3.78	1.39
Sturgeon Falls	2.54	3.04	1.04s	1.85	4.34s	7.80	.92	1.89	.59 1.32	3.94	1.54
Sudbury	2.39	2.79	1.22	1.85	5.21	7.49	.81	1.75	.65 1.35	3.85	1.08
Timmins	2.29	2.69s	.99	1.49	5.73s	7.07	.91	1.79	.59 1.29	3.84	1.22
Wawa	2.29s	3.98s	1.09s	1.67	5.18s	8.11	.92	1.74s	.54 1.29s	3.68	1.34

* NOTE: Specials are included in all locations

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM
PREVIOUS QUARTER FOR ALL CENIRES

During the quarter September to December 1987, the total price of the 72 items monitored declined in 31 of the 37 Ontario communities surveyed. Decreases ranged from 0.3 percent in Thunder Bay and Blind River to 6.7 percent in Iroquois Falls. Total price increased in five other communities, ranging from 0.1 percent in Fort Francis to 2.3 percent in Hearst.

Fresh fruit and vegetables registered significant increases in almost all communities monitored for reasons similar to those noted in Toronto prices. Comparisons were not possible for Kapuskasing since there were no computerized data for this community in September.

Pork showed significant declines in many communities reflecting decreases in the prices paid to hog producers.

Poultry prices also registered notable declines in many communities mainly due to large supplies of chicken and increased promotions during the festive season. A significant increase in Sioux Lookout was mainly due to a return to regular prices from September specials on chicken, which offset the effects of December specials on turkey.

Lamb prices registered significant increases in Moosonee, Manitoulin Island, Kirkland Lake, Timmins and Sioux Lookout reflecting a lifting of specials which were featured during the September monitoring.

There were notable price declines in the dry groceries category in many communities. This reflected a reduction in the price of dry beans from the high levels which had prevailed since December 1986. This was also explained in Toronto prices.

Other categories such as canned fruit, vegetables and juices; beverages; cereals and bread; dairy and eggs; oils and fats and other groceries also experienced declines, mainly due to specials featured during the December monitoring.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are shown in Table 3.
Table 3a gives the price movement of the 72 items by category for all centres for the period September to December 1987.

Table 3
Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres

	Mar.5/87- June 4/87 % Difference	June 4/87- Sept.3/87 % Difference	Sept.3/87 Dec.3/87 % Difference
Toronto	-0.4	-1.3	-0.8
<u>Southern Ontario</u>			
Hamilton	1.8	-0.8	-3.7
Kingston	3.6	-1.1	-3.3
London	1.9	-0.8	-2.6
Ottawa	1.0	-6.1	-2.2
Owen Sound	0.8	-0.5	-4.8
Peterborough	0.8	0.4	-1.9
Windsor	0.5	-1.4	-4.7
<u>Northwestern Ontario</u>			
Atikokan	0.6	-1.8	1.2
Dryden	2.5	1.1	-1.9
Fort Frances	5.5	2.9	0.1
Geraldton	-0.2	1.4	-3.3
Ignace	2.2	3.1	-1.7
Kenora	3.1	-1.5	-3.8
Marathon	1.9	-0.6	-1.2
Rainy River	0.8	-1.8	1.8
Red Lake	-0.8	0.5	-2.1
Sioux Lookout	3.0	0.3	0.7
Thunder Bay	3.4	-1.0	-0.3
<u>Northeastern Ontario</u>			
Blind River	4.9	-5.2	-0.3
Chapleau	5.5	-5.2	-2.0
Cochrane	1.6	-1.2	-2.5
Elliot Lake	0.3	-2.1	-5.0
Espanola	3.7	-3.5	-4.5
Hearst	-0.8	-4.2	2.3
Iroquois Falls	-0.5	1.2	-6.7
Kapuskasing	-0.9	*	*
Kirkland Lake	1.1	-4.4	-5.0
Manitoulin Island	3.1	-1.6	-2.4
Moosonee	-3.1	1.5	-0.8
New Liskeard	1.8	0.3	-3.1
North Bay	2.3	0.1	-2.0
Sault Ste. Marie	3.1	-0.6	-4.2
Sturgeon Falls	-0.1	0.9	-2.5
Sudbury	-0.2	0.4	-1.9
Timmins	-2.2	0.3	-2.8
Wawa	2.3	-4.9	-1.0

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of
Consumer and Commercial Relations

Note: Data for Kapuskasing not computed due to technical problems in Sept.

3: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, Sept. 1987 to Dec. 1987 (Percentage Change)

	Canned													
	Dairy		Cereals		Fruits		Fresh Dry		Oils		Jams		Other	
	% Change		Eggs		Breads		Beverages		Juices		Fruit & Veg.		Groceries	
Ontario	-0.8	2.9	-2.4	-0.1	-4.8	19.5	-9.0	-0.5	-3.9	-1.9	0.2	9.4	1.9	-17.1
Hamilton	-3.7	1.7	-2.3	-3.0	-5.3	12.7	-22.0	-4.8	1.7	-18.9	4.0	16.4	1.3	-18.8
London	-3.3	6.5	-11.5	-6.4	-1.0	15.9	-5.3	-7.3	-0.7	5.7	-2.2	-13.4	-12.5	-21.1
Windsor	-2.6	-1.2	-0.6	-3.2	-3.7	14.5	-19.1	0.2	-0.6	3.3	2.5	-6.5	-1.4	-26.1
St. Catharines	-2.2	2.4	-4.3	2.0	0.0	11.5	-13.2	4.2	0.0	-2.5	-16.1	-7.9	0.8	-3.4
Georgetown	-4.8	-17.6	-8.3	-3.0	-3.1	17.8	-12.8	-6.5	15.5	-7.7	-3.2	-12.6	-1.8	-13.1
Port Huron	-1.9	-6.2	1.1	-4.4	-4.3	24.7	-9.9	-7.6	6.3	-1.3	-1.7	13.9	-3.9	-12.7
St. Clair	-4.6	-0.4	-3.8	0.5	-1.8	22.9	-12.6	-0.5	-4.3	3.3	-9.5	6.6	-21.8	-32.5
Ontario														
Chatham	1.2	-1.1	2.8	-9.3	0.1	11.7	1.2	-0.7	8.8	2.1	18.1	8.0	-5.4	-15.0
London	-1.9	1.9	-2.8	1.3	-5.0	0.2	-8.3	-0.1	6.5	5.8	7.2	-8.6	-20.4	-2.6
St. Francis	0.1	-0.1	9.8	-6.6	1.5	-11.8	11.5	0.5	-2.3	-1.4	0.7	1.3	-0.2	-6.8
Windsor	-1.4	-3.0	-0.9	-1.9	3.7	13.4	-9.1	5.4	1.1	1.6	2.4	0.0	-13.9	-7.8
Georgetown	-1.7	1.0	-5.1	1.7	-0.2	5.0	-4.8	-2.9	4.4	-3.3	1.4	0.0	-4.3	-1.1
St. Catharines	-3.8	4.1	2.4	-2.5	-1.5	12.0	-32.8	3.0	-0.6	-0.8	-4.4	0.0	-12.5	2.4
Georgetown	-1.2	1.7	-1.3	-8.6	-5.7	16.9	0.3	-2.1	-7.1	1.5	12.9	3.3	-17.2	0.4
St. Catharines	1.8	0.0	6.7	8.5	-1.5	17.8	-3.2	1.6	1.0	3.6	11.6	0.0	-18.6	-0.7
St. Catharines	-2.1	-2.8	-8.4	10.6	-4.2	-2.1	-6.3	5.0	3.7	-7.6	13.1	-19.8	-19.6	2.3
St. Catharines	0.7	-3.0	-4.8	3.5	1.3	8.2	-4.6	1.2	0.6	-2.9	1.5	12.9	-1.7	29.0
St. Catharines	-0.3	-1.3	1.3	-1.7	0.5	0.7	2.3	-0.6	3.1	-1.5	2.3	-14.9	0.1	-14.5
Ontario														
St. Catharines	-0.3	-6.5	7.8	0.7	2.1	24.8	-10.5	11.3	10.3	-0.9	-4.7	-37.6	-6.1	0.0
St. Catharines	-2.0	-0.5	2.6	-6.2	3.6	13.9	-9.7	-1.9	13.5	5.0	-10.4	-10.0	-7.9	-13.0
St. Catharines	-2.5	-2.0	-6.3	-12.1	-4.1	6.2	-13.9	2.7	3.4	2.6	4.1	-8.8	2.3	10.2
St. Catharines	-5.0	-0.6	-1.2	-4.9	-1.9	12.0	-17.7	-4.4	0.9	-7.8	-4.8	0.0	-21.6	-20.2
St. Catharines	-4.5	-3.4	-7.7	-1.3	0.3	21.2	-15.4	-4.6	2.6	-7.4	-11.1	-2.2	-7.2	-19.7
St. Catharines	2.3	-1.3	3.3	13.3	1.8	21.3	-8.3	-2.4	0.5	-6.8	-0.1	1.9	12.9	-22.4
St. Catharines	-6.7	-6.3	-2.2	-2.6	-5.3	11.4	-7.5	-9.4	0.8	-3.1	-17.4	14.9	-25.5	-2.3
St. Catharines*														
St. Catharines	-5.0	5.1	-6.6	0.4	-8.8	17.0	-16.1	-4.5	-9.4	-5.7	-2.9	13.4	-13.6	-20.9
St. Catharines	-2.4	-4.6	-0.2	-1.2	4.7	18.8	-17.5	0.2	0.5	-2.4	3.9	14.9	-19.1	-9.6
St. Catharines	-0.8	-0.5	-2.2	-8.1	-7.4	-5.7	-16.7	1.7	1.0	-2.5	9.9	36.1	18.1	18.9
St. Catharines	-3.1	0.4	-0.7	-2.6	-1.9	9.0	-16.3	1.0	-2.6	-6.0	-10.2	-3.9	3.6	-12.0
St. Catharines	-2.0	-3.1	1.8	-4.3	-3.9	13.4	-8.6	0.7	-4.1	1.0	-9.2	0.0	-2.0	6.9
St. Catharines	-4.2	0.2	-4.5	-5.7	-5.0	11.5	-7.2	2.4	-3.5	-1.9	-6.6	-11.1	-12.4	-10.7
St. Catharines	-2.5	-1.8	-4.4	3.4	1.4	22.1	-14.4	-1.0	-1.0	-6.6	-12.8	7.3	-5.7	-3.6
St. Catharines	-1.9	4.5	-1.7	-2.1	-5.4	25.7	-9.6	0.4	-5.5	1.5	1.8	-12.2	-3.8	-42.9
St. Catharines	-2.8	-1.2	-0.5	-7.2	1.8	22.7	-13.1	-0.5	-6.2	-4.4	0.7	17.0	-14.2	-11.4
St. Catharines	-1.0	-19.2	-4.6	-2.8	-2.4	21.3	6.7	-9.3	3.5	-1.6	-2.9	10.9	4.3	5.3

NTE: Specials are included for all locations.

Special note: Data for Kapuskasing were not computed due to technical problems in September.

Christmas Dinner

The estimated cost of Christmas dinner for four people is compared between December 1986 and December 1987 in Table 4. This includes a survey of baking needs and is based on a three-store average.

TABLE 4: Christmas Dinner, Year-to-Year Comparison

Dinner	1986	1987	Changes
Mushroom Soup - 10 ozs (2 tins)	1.24	1.25s	
Garden Cocktail - 28 ozs	.87	1.25s	
Turkey Grade A Frozen - 12 lbs	18.20	17.36	
Cranberry Sauce - 14 ozs	1.19	1.49	
Stuffing Mix - Turkey - 8 ozs	1.29	1.55	
Bread Loaf	.82	.96	
Yam - 1lb	.62	.55	
Green Beans, fresh - 1lb	1.62	1.99	
Broccoli - bunch	1.42	1.32s	
Christmas Plum Pudding - 15 ozs	2.92	3.22	
Coffee - 1lb bag	4.35	4.49s	
2% Milk - 1 quart (1.136 litres)	.85	.86	
Wine - Ontario	5.45	5.95	
Dinner Total	40.84	42.24	3.43
Raisins - 15 ozs (425 gr)	1.42	2.39	
Almonds, sliced - 100 gr	2.29	2.29	
Walnut Pieces - 100 gr	1.02	1.24	
Butter - 1lb	2.79	2.79	
Candied Fruits			
Mixed Peel, diced - 8 ozs	1.74	2.09s	
Cherries Red & Green - 8 ozs	2.84	2.69s	
Flour - 2.5 kg	2.89	2.99	
Sugar Granulated - 2 kg	1.82	1.82	
Spices:			
Ginger ground - 32 gr	1.71	1.89	
Allspice - ground - 32 gr	1.95	1.86s	
Cinnamon, Ontario - 13 ozs	1.61	1.82	
Brandy, Ontario - 13 ozs	8.20	8.50	
Eggs - 1 doz.	.99	.99	
Baking Total	31.27	33.36	6.68
Total Dinner & Baking	<u>72.11</u>	<u>75.60</u>	<u>4.84</u>

Note: Specials are included in three-store average.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 Ontario communities were monitored. In August, 1981, Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely related to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 percent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres in Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 55 percent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores where possible. In some small communities only two stores could be monitored. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability are often encountered in some of the more remote and smaller communities, appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size. Staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

- . Dairy and Eggs;
- . Cereals and Bread;
- . Canned Fruits and Vegetables (including canned juices);
- . Fresh Fruits and Vegetables;
- . Dry Groceries;
- . Oils and Fats;
- . Jams and Syrups;
- . Other Groceries; and
- . Meats (including beef, frozen lamb, pork and poultry).

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. Other calculations included a comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres as well as percentage changes in prices from previous month for all centres.

00
- F 55

Report #55



Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program

March 1988

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #55

MARCH, 1988

PREPARED BY:

Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer and
Commercial Relations

March, 1988

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	3
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	6
APPENDICES:	
Scope of Monitoring & Methodology	9

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: December 4, 1986 to December 3, 1987 March 5, 1987 to March 3, 1988 December 3, 1987 to March 3, 1988	2
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario: September 1987, December 1987 and March 1988	4
2a. A 3-Store Average Price of Easily Comparable Items in 37 Ontario Communities as of March 1988	5
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres: June 4, 1987 to Sept. 3, 1987 September 3, 1987 to December 3, 1987 December 3, 1987 to March 3, 1988	7
3a. Percentage Change in Prices by Category for All Centres: December 1987 to March 1988	8

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

Over the quarter December 1987 to March 1988, Toronto food prices as measured by the 72 regularly monitored food items declined by 1.4 percent. Prices declined by 3.8 percent from a year earlier.

Declines were noted in areas such as beverages (9.7 percent); canned fruits (6.9 percent); canned vegetable (1.2 percent); fresh fruit and vegetables (4.9 percent) dry groceries (3.1 percent) and pork (5.6 percent). These declines were mainly due to the featuring of specials in each category. The decline in the dry groceries category continued to reflect lower prices for dried beans than price levels which prevailed in 1987.

All other categories registered price increases ranging from 0.3 percent in the dairy and eggs category to 9.6 percent in the poultry category, mainly due to the lifting of September specials on items in each category.

On an annual basis, increases ranged from 0.6 percent in the oils and fats category to 7.2 percent for beef. These were mainly due to movement from specials which were featured a year earlier and slightly higher regular prices.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

TABLE 1: Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

CATEGORY	No. of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison		Quarterly Comparison
		Dec. 4/86	Mar 5/87	Dec. 3/87
		-Dec. 3/87	-Mar 3/88	-Mar. 3/88
		% change	% change	% change
Dairy and Eggs	5	4.4	5.0	0.3
Cereals and Bread	7	6.3	2.2	1.4
Beverage	5	-12.6	-24.3	-9.7
Canned Fruits & Vegetables				
Canned Fruit	2	11.0	-1.0	-6.9
Canned Vegetable	4	3.6	6.0	-1.2
Canned Juices	4	7.0	1.4	3.6
Fresh Fruit & Vegetable	10	2.8	-1.5	-4.9
Dry Groceries	7	-4.5	-14.4	-3.1
Oils and Fat	4	-0.1	0.6	1.5
Jams and Syrup	3	-4.5	-4.6	1.1
Other Groceries	6	2.3	-1.0	2.2
Meats				
Beef	6	5.7	7.2	1.6
Lamb	1	9.4	5.5	0.4
Pork	5	0.6	-0.9	-5.6
Poultry	3	-12.5	-6.3	9.6
Total	72	-0.1	-3.8	-1.4

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 OTHER COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored in March, 1988 was lower than Toronto in all other seven Southern Ontario communities monitored. The price spread between Toronto and three communities widened, reflecting a larger price decline in these communities compared to Toronto. Price spread between Toronto and for other Southern Ontario communities narrowed, reflecting price improvements in Toronto.

Northwestern Ontario

Total price was lower than Toronto in two of the eleven northwestern Ontario communities monitored. The price spread between Toronto and five communities narrowed often reflecting price improvements in these communities in relation to Toronto. The price spread widened in six other communities, sometimes reflecting improvements in relation to Toronto.

Northeastern Ontario

Total price was lower in 15 of the 18 Northeastern Ontario communities surveyed. The price spread narrowed in 13 communities, widened in four others and remained stable in one other.

A comparison of price differentials between Toronto and all other communities monitored can be found in Table 2. Table 2a shows the average price of easily comparable items in 37 Ontario communities as of March 3, 1988.

Table 2:
 Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other
 Communities in Ontario

COMMUNITY	Sept. 3/87 % Difference from Toronto	Dec. 3/87 % Difference from Toronto	Mar. 3/88 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>Southern Ontario</u>			
Hamilton	-3.9	-6.8	-7.7
Kingston	0.7	-1.9	-1.6
London	-1.9	-3.7	-2.0
Ottawa	-12.1	-13.4	-13.9
Owen Sound	-2.5	-6.6	-5.2
Peterborough	-0.2	-1.4	-3.0
Windsor	-3.6	-7.4	-3.0
<u>Northwestern Ontario</u>			
Atikokan	1.8	3.9	3.5
Dryden	2.4	1.2	1.9
Fort Frances	0.5	1.4	6.5
Geraldton	-0.5	-3.0	0.3
Ignace	5.6	4.7	6.8
Kenora	-6.9	-9.8	-9.9
Marathon	6.3	5.8	4.7
Rainy River	0.7	3.4	1.7
Red Lake	4.4	3.0	5.7
Sioux Lookout	7.4	9.0	6.0
Thunder Bay	-4.9	-4.4	-4.6
<u>Northeastern Ontario</u>			
Blind River	-5.3	-4.9	-4.4
Chapleau	-2.0	-3.2	-1.4
Cochrane	-1.2	-2.9	-0.9
Elliot Lake	-6.0	-10.4	-6.2
Espanola	-4.4	-8.0	-7.3
Hearst	-5.0	-2.1	-2.1
Iroquois Falls	-6.7	-12.3	-8.2
Kapuskasing	8	-1.3	1.1
Kirkland Lake	-8.4	-12.3	-7.9
Manitoulin Island	0.9	-0.8	2.3
Moosonee	8.4	8.0	10.9
New Liskeard	-2.9	-5.1	-4.8
North Bay	-2.6	-3.8	-2.6
Sault Ste. Marie	-5.0	-8.2	-5.9
Sturgeon Falls	-3.1	-4.8	-4.0
Sudbury	-3.0	-4.1	-4.5
Timmins	-6.3	-8.2	-8.4
Wawa	-7.9	-8.1	-7.1

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
 and Commercial Relations
 *Data for Kapuskasing were not computed due to technical problems.

TABLE 2a: 3-Store Average* of Easily Comparable Food Items in 37 Ontario Communities, March, 1988

	Dollars											
	Butter	Milk	Eggs	Dry Cereal	Flour	Coffee Instant	Canned Corn	Tomato Juice	Bananas 1 lb.	Sugar	Sirloin Steak	Whole Chicken
Community	1 lb.	4L	1 doz.	350 g.	3.5kg.	10 oz.	7 oz.	48 oz.		2 kg.	1 lb.	1 lb.
Toronto	2.85	2.79	1.48	1.85	5.59s	7.07s	.82s	1.92	.60s	1.89	5.22s	2.12
S. Ontario												
Hamilton	1.97	1.81s	.97s	1.76	5.55	7.90	.93s	1.75s	.55s	.88s	4.79s	1.35s
Kingston	2.65	2.88	1.44	1.86	4.65	7.90	.85s	1.85	.60	1.99	4.02	2.12
London	2.49	2.59	1.29	1.85	5.79	7.69	.82s	1.89	.57s	1.55	4.89	1.87
Ottawa	2.15s	2.59	1.09	1.54	5.45s	6.24	.70	1.12s	.45s	.89s	3.09	1.42
Queen's Sound	1.99s	1.99s	.99s	1.85	5.48	8.11	.92	1.59s	.59s	.99s	3.84	1.99
Peterborough	2.65	2.79	1.29	1.85	5.59s	7.90	.84s	1.75s	.57s	1.65	4.49s	1.99
Windsor	2.69	3.06	1.39	2.05	5.59	6.99s	.91	1.99	.55	1.55	4.49	1.26
W. Ontario												
Stikokan	2.70	4.82	1.49	1.69	5.25	8.74	.89	1.19	.69	1.49	4.63	1.89
Wryden	2.58	4.63	1.34s	1.71	5.03	8.65	.87	1.15s	.67	1.55	4.59s	1.66s
Port Frances	2.58	4.20	1.30	1.59	5.32	7.62	.87	2.12	.69	2.45	3.89	1.79
Geraldton	2.84	3.89	1.64	1.69	4.84	8.74	.80	1.42	.77	1.39	4.36	1.63
Ignace	2.72	4.75	1.38	1.68	4.74	9.23	.93	1.84	.79	1.64	4.59s	1.67
Kenora	1.94	4.50	.94s	1.59	5.99	5.99	.99	1.54	.49s	1.22	3.74	1.49
Marathon	2.89	4.82	1.50	1.79	5.48	8.11	.95	2.04	.72	1.65s	4.79	1.74
Rainy River	2.89	4.52	1.59	1.63	4.37s	7.96	.90	1.78	.64	1.69	3.98	1.85
Red Lake	2.82	4.78	1.49	1.69	5.29	9.05	.89	1.89s	.69	1.62	5.34	1.49s
Sioux Lookout	2.82	4.75	1.46	1.72	5.35	10.03	.91	1.82	.76	1.72	4.19s	1.87
Thunder Bay	2.89	3.16	1.19s	1.52s	5.63	7.90	.85	1.79s	.79	1.79	4.29s	1.22s
N.E. Ontario												
Blind River	2.29	2.99	1.09	1.49	5.75	8.11	.79s	1.59	.49s	1.29	2.89	1.49
Chapleau	2.69	4.89	1.49	1.82	5.87	8.41	.78s	1.87	.69	1.34s	4.14	1.44
Cochrane	2.31	2.99	1.34	1.67	5.24	7.48	.87	1.84	.64	1.62	3.71	1.43
Elliot Lake	2.39	2.99	1.09	1.49	5.86	8.42	.84	1.74	.54s	1.29	3.58s	.99s
Espanola	2.29	2.99	1.09	1.64	5.86	7.17	.92	1.44	.49	1.29	3.33	1.49
Hearst	2.67	4.29	1.48	1.64	5.92	8.11	.86	1.79	.69	1.99	4.59	1.69
Iroquois Falls	2.39s	2.99	1.19	1.55	5.71	8.73	.88	1.39s	.54	1.29	2.94	.99
Kapuskasing	2.61	4.29	1.47	1.82	5.99	8.11	.91	1.84	.74	1.29	5.99	1.89
Kirkland Lake	2.29	2.70s	1.19s	1.67s	5.98	6.54s	.64	1.57s	.64	1.13	4.14	1.44
Manitoulin Island	2.76	3.99	1.59	1.89	6.19	9.00	.97	1.99	.69	1.94	4.74	1.57
Moosonee	2.72	5.37	1.79	1.76s	5.85	9.97	.94	1.69	.90s	1.82	4.76	1.67
New Liskeard	2.29	2.99	1.09	1.67s	5.87	8.11	.89	1.89	.49	1.29	3.64	1.49
North Bay	2.45	2.99	1.05s	1.85	5.32	8.11	.95	1.65s	.69	1.29s	5.25	2.02
Sault St. Marie	2.29	2.99	1.09	1.44s	5.40s	7.90s	.79	1.62s	.62	1.29	4.25s	1.62
Sturgeon Falls	2.49	3.29	1.24s	1.85	5.99	8.11	.92	1.89	.74	1.49	5.04	1.49s
Sudbury	2.55	2.79	1.19	1.56s	5.55	7.69	.75	1.79	.50s	1.29	4.25	1.81
Timmins	2.29	2.89	1.09	1.61	5.90	7.28	.87	1.49	.62	1.29	3.55	1.55
Wawa	2.29	4.29	1.09	1.67	4.49	7.80	.79	1.94	.59	1.29	3.64	1.59

* NOTE: Specials are included in all locations

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM
PREVIOUS QUARTER FOR ALL CENTRES

During the quarter December 1987 to March 1988, the total price of the 72 items monitored declined in 21 of the 37 Ontario communities surveyed. Decreases ranged from 0.1 percent in Sturgeon Falls to 4.1 percent in Sioux Lookout.

Fresh fruit and vegetables showed price declines in almost all communities monitored, reflecting lower prices for most salad vegetables and increases in stocks of domestic storable vegetables, compared to the level of a year ago.

The beverage category registered price declines in many communities often reflecting lower coffee prices due to specials.

The dry groceries category registered price declines in many communities mainly due to specials on items in this category.

Poultry and pork registered price declines in many communities reflecting large supplies of chicken and increased pork production in Canada and the U.S., exerting downward pressure on producer prices for hog. Significant price increases in the poultry category in Kingston, London, Owen Sound, Espanola, Manitoulin Island, New Liskeard, Sudbury and Timmins were mainly due to return to regular prices from December specials. Similarly, in the lamb category, Geraldton, Thunder Bay and Manitoulin Island showed significant price increases as a result of the lifting of December specials.

Beef showed price declines in many communities, probably reflecting the large supplies of competing meats.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are shown in Table 3. Table 3a gives the price movement of the 72 items by category for all centres for the period December 1987 to March 1988.

Table 3
Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres

	June 4/87 Sept. 3/87 % Difference	Sept. 3/87 Dec. 3/87 % Difference	Dec. 3/87 Mar. 3/88 % Difference
Toronto	-1.3	-0.8	-1.4
<u>Southern Ontario</u>			
Hamilton	-0.8	-3.7	-2.4
Kingston	-1.1	-3.3	-1.1
London	-0.8	-2.6	0.4
Ottawa	-6.1	-2.2	-3.3
Owen Sound	-0.5	-4.8	0.0
Peterborough	0.4	-1.9	-3.1
Windsor	-1.4	-4.7	3.3
<u>Northwestern Ontario</u>			
Atikokan	-1.8	1.2	-1.8
Dryden	1.1	-1.9	-0.8
Fort Frances	2.9	0.1	3.5
Geraldton	1.4	-3.3	0.1
Ignace	3.1	-1.7	0.6
Kenora	-1.5	-3.8	-1.5
Marathon	-0.6	-1.2	-2.4
Rainy River	-1.8	1.8	-2.2
Red Lake	0.5	-2.1	1.2
Sioux Lookout	0.3	0.7	-4.1
Thunder Bay	-1.0	-0.3	-1.5
<u>Northeastern Ontario</u>			
Blind River	-5.2	-0.3	-0.9
Chapleau	-5.2	-2.0	0.4
Cochrane	-1.2	-2.5	0.6
Elliot Lake	-2.1	-5.0	3.2
Espanola	-3.5	-4.5	-0.6
Hearst	-4.2	2.3	-1.4
Iroquois Falls	1.2	-6.7	3.3
Kapuskasing	*	*	1.0
Kirkland Lake	-4.4	-5.0	3.6
Manitoulin Island	-1.6	-2.4	1.7
Moosonee	1.5	-0.8	1.3
New Liskeard	0.3	-3.1	-1.1
North Bay	0.1	-2.0	-0.2
Sault Ste. Marie	-0.6	-4.2	1.1
Sturgeon Falls	0.9	-2.5	-0.1
Sudbury	0.4	-1.9	-1.7
Timmins	0.3	-2.8	-1.6
Wawa	-4.9	-1.0	-0.3

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program; Ontario Ministry of
Consumer and Commercial Relations

Note: * Data for Kapuskasing not computed due to technical problems in Sept.

3a: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, Dec. 1987 to March 1988 (Percentage Change)

	Canned														
	Dairy			Cereals		Fruits	Fresh Dry	Oils	Jams	Other	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meal
	&	&	Bever-	Veg.&	Fruit	Groc-	&	&	Groc-						
	% Change	Eggs	Bread	ages	Juices	& Veg.	eries	Fats	Syrups	eries					
Oronto	-1.4	0.3	1.4	-9.7	-0.1	-4.9	-3.1	1.5	1.1	2.2	1.6	0.4	-5.6	9.6	-0.2
ntario															
arlington	-2.4	-7.0	3.2	-2.9	-1.2	-11.1	4.8	4.3	-7.6	10.6	-1.6	-17.8	-11.9	1.9	-6.1
irston	-1.1	-0.6	0.3	-3.6	5.8	-9.7	-5.2	7.6	4.9	-0.6	-2.6	-7.7	-11.2	30.3	-2.1
ollon	0.4	3.0	-4.0	-4.2	-0.8	-4.4	9.6	1.7	-2.4	-1.0	2.6	6.9	-4.0	25.0	3.5
owa	-3.3	-1.4	3.8	1.0	-4.4	-5.1	-1.9	3.3	-9.5	-2.5	0.5	11.6	-12.5	-27.6	-8.5
wn Sound	0.0	5.1	4.0	-2.0	-2.2	-12.4	-0.1	8.4	5.1	-1.5	-7.4	0.0	5.2	13.1	0.1
erborough	-3.1	7.1	-1.7	-1.2	-1.7	-11.4	-0.1	11.5	-9.5	-2.3	-2.0	-1.4	-20.3	-1.9	-9.2
idson	3.3	7.8	0.7	-1.9	1.6	-12.6	-2.8	-3.7	11.2	2.5	10.8	15.3	13.5	1.0	10.9
. Ontario															
roken	-1.8	5.0	-2.3	5.6	-5.7	-16.9	-20.5	1.0	-8.1	6.7	-6.1	18.6	6.5	26.8	3.8
rden	-0.8	-2.0	3.0	-1.4	-0.4	-1.9	1.4	1.5	-4.5	-0.1	-5.6	11.0	1.2	-3.5	-2.0
et Frances	3.5	0.5	1.2	16.7	1.9	12.2	4.0	3.8	0.3	4.8	-0.7	0.0	-2.3	-3.0	-1.6
eldton	0.1	-0.1	9.8	0.1	-8.3	-5.7	-8.2	-6.3	1.2	1.2	4.1	28.1	3.6	2.3	5.2
age	0.6	1.5	0.8	-4.8	-0.9	-0.1	-5.9	0.2	-1.3	8.1	8.7	11.8	-1.2	9.9	5.2
gora	-1.5	-14.1	5.7	-4.2	2.8	-5.0	15.9	-9.6	16.8	6.2	-9.9	-15.0	5.7	-17.8	-5.9
athon	-2.4	-5.2	11.5	1.2	7.1	-21.4	-6.9	-1.6	5.6	0.5	-13.7	0.0	0.2	2.0	-5.6
ny River	-3.0	-6.1	-5.5	-4.2	0.3	-10.7	-7.3	-1.4	-3.9	3.3	0.4	0.0	4.9	0.0	1.9
Lake	1.2	-2.7	4.9	-1.8	0.9	3.1	3.3	2.0	1.1	3.3	-1.1	0.0	10.7	-12.0	1.2
ux Lookout	-4.1	0.4	7.4	-7.5	-0.3	-14.2	-13.4	-0.2	-1.0	2.5	-9.7	-12.0	-3.5	-4.2	-6.8
inder Bay	-1.5	-1.7	0.2	-2.0	-2.4	12.4	-0.7	1.6	-4.2	4.8	-4.8	15.1	-14.1	-8.1	-7.9
. Ontario															
nd River	-0.9	5.5	0.9	2.7	1.8	-2.2	2.3	0.0	2.6	-11.3	-0.7	0.0	-12.9	2.3	-5.9
apleau	0.4	-0.3	-4.6	2.0	1.1	2.6	3.7	0.8	3.5	4.2	4.9	1.8	-7.3	-9.6	-1.8
hrene	0.6	3.5	0.6	3.2	0.8	-1.1	-0.8	-4.8	0.6	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.7
liot Lake	3.2	1.2	-0.5	7.0	2.6	-3.2	-3.4	1.7	0.6	8.2	0.1	0.0	18.7	15.0	8.5
anola	-0.6	0.9	5.6	-5.1	-1.5	-11.5	3.8	6.7	3.1	2.2	2.1	2.3	-16.3	30.9	-2.5
arst	-1.4	7.5	-0.6	-7.7	-0.1	-8.6	0.9	-0.3	-1.7	6.8	3.9	-3.7	-17.5	19.1	-4.1
oquois Falls	3.3	-1.8	1.8	1.7	8.0	-5.2	1.3	11.5	0.6	2.1	6.0	0.0	14.9	-2.4	7.9
puskasing	1.0	3.4	2.1	-2.4	5.0	-1.9	-3.1	0.5	12.7	4.4	1.5	-7.4	-4.9	-7.3	-2.6
rkland Lake	3.6	-7.9	13.4	-1.0	7.4	3.0	-2.3	-1.5	12.5	9.4	2.1	1.3	14.2	-0.7	6.1
nitoulin Island	1.7	4.4	3.8	2.3	1.5	-4.5	0.1	-2.3	-0.7	-1.1	-2.8	24.2	4.0	26.0	4.5
osenee	1.3	4.2	6.1	5.7	6.0	13.0	3.2	-5.2	0.7	16.9	-8.0	-10.9	-17.8	-10.3	-12.1
w Liskeard	-1.1	-1.1	-1.5	-1.4	4.1	-5.2	3.3	-0.4	7.0	6.0	-0.3	0.0	-22.0	23.1	-6.6
rth Bay	-0.2	2.2	-0.8	-0.6	3.2	-6.4	-2.5	4.4	1.7	2.7	9.1	-0.4	-15.1	7.0	-1.5
ult St. Marie	1.1	3.1	2.6	-0.0	7.1	-0.7	-4.6	1.3	-5.8	-0.6	10.0	-2.1	-8.4	16.1	2.8
urgeon Falls	-0.1	-6.0	10.8	-2.7	-5.7	-4.8	8.8	6.4	3.0	-4.7	14.7	-11.9	-12.5	-4.0	-0.5
dbury	-1.7	0.9	-0.4	-2.3	1.2	-8.8	-7.3	-0.1	1.4	-0.9	1.6	-6.5	-15.0	62.4	-1.1
mmins	-1.6	3.7	-1.9	-1.4	-4.0	-8.2	-3.5	-2.7	-14.8	7.7	0.8	6.6	-7.3	22.8	0.5
wa	-0.3	16.7	-5.0	-6.9	5.6	-16.9	-7.9	9.4	5.6	6.8	0.9	0.0	-6.9	5.5	-1.7

OTE: Specials are included for all locations.

pecial note: Data for Kapuskasing were not computed due to technical problems in September.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 Ontario communities were monitored. In August, 1981, Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely related to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 percent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres in Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 55 percent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores where possible. In some small communities only two stores could be monitored. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability are often encountered in some of the more remote and smaller communities, appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size. Staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

- . Dairy and Eggs;
- . Cereals and Bread;
- . Canned Fruits and Vegetables (including canned juices);
- . Fresh Fruits and Vegetables;
- . Dry Groceries;
- . Oils and Fats;
- . Jams and Syrups;
- . Other Groceries; and
- . Meats (including beef, frozen lamb, pork and poultry).

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. Other calculations included a comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres as well as percentage changes in prices from previous month for all centres.

CH-101
XL
R-10

Report #56

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



June 1988

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #56

JUNE, 1988

PREPARED BY:

Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

June, 1988

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	3
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	6
APPENDICES:	
Scope of Monitoring & Methodology	9

INDEX OF TABLES

<u>Table</u>		<u>Page</u>
1.	Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto:	
	March 5, 1987 to March 3, 1988	
	June 4, 1987 to June 3, 1988	
	March 3, 1988 to June 3, 1988	2
2.	Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items between Toronto & 36 Other Communities in Ontario:	
	December 1987, March 1988 & June 1988	4
2a.	A 3-store Average Price of Easily Comparable Items in 37 Ontario Communities as of June 1988	5
3.	Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres:	
	September 3, 1987 to December 3, 1987	
	December 3, 1987 to March 3, 1988	
	March 3, 1988 to June 3, 1988	7
3a.	Percentage Change in Prices by Category for All Centres:	
	March 1988 to June 1988	8

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

Over the quarter, March to June 1988, Toronto food prices as measured by the 72 regularly monitored food items increased by 2.3 percent. Prices declined by 1.1 percent from a year earlier.

Declines which were noted in categories such as dry groceries (2.9 percent); oils and fats (0.8 percent); jams and syrups (2.9 percent); other groceries (0.4 percent); beef (1.6 percent) and poultry (10.9 percent) were mainly due to the featuring of June specials in each category.

Apart from lamb, all other categories registered price increases ranging from 1.1 percent in the pork category to 13.3 percent in the canned vegetables category, mainly due to the lifting of March specials on items in each category.

On an annual basis, increases ranged from 2.2 percent in the cereals and breads category to 16.5 percent in the canned vegetables category. These increases were mainly due to movements from artificially lower prices due to the featuring of specials a year earlier and slightly higher regular prices during the June monitoring.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

TABLE 1: Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

CATEGORY	No. of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison		Quarterly Comparison
		Mar. 5/87	Jun 4/87	Mar. 3/88
		-Mar. 3/88	-Jun 3/88	-Jun. 3/88
		% change	% change	% change
Dairy and Eggs	5	5.0	5.1	3.8
Cereals and Bread	7	2.2	2.2	3.1
Beverage	5	-24.3	-0.3	11.6
Canned Fruits & Vegetables				
Canned Fruit	2	-1.0	5.4	11.9
Canned Vegetable	4	6.0	16.5	13.3
Canned Juices	4	1.4	3.2	4.2
Fresh Fruit & Vegetable	10	-1.5	-13.8	8.8
Dry Groceries	7	-14.1	-14.1	-2.9
Oils and Fat	4	0.6	-1.2	-0.8
Jams and Syrup	3	-4.6	-5.6	-2.9
Other Groceries	6	-1.0	-1.8	-0.4
Meats				
Beef	6	7.2	5.1	-1.6
Lamb	1	5.5	0.0	0.0
Pork	5	-0.9	3.1	1.1
Poultry	3	-6.3	-5.7	-10.9
Total	72	-3.8	-1.1	2.3

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 OTHER COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

The total price of the 72 items monitored in June, 1988 was lower than Toronto in all other Southern Ontario communities monitored. The price spread between Toronto and four communities widened, reflecting larger price declines in these communities compared to Toronto. Price spread narrowed in three other Southern Ontario communities.

Northern Ontario

Total price was lower than Toronto in four of the eleven Northwestern Ontario communities monitored. The price spread between Toronto and nine communities narrowed, reflecting price improvements in these communities compared to Toronto. The price spread widened in two other communities reflecting lower price increases in these communities compared to Toronto.

Northeastern Ontario

Total price was lower in 17 of the 18 Northeastern Ontario communities surveyed. The price spread narrowed in seven communities and widened in eleven others.

A comparison of price differentials between Toronto and all other communities monitored can be found in Table 2. Table 2a shows the average price of easily comparable items in 37 Ontario communities as of June 2, 1988.

Table 2:

Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

COMMUNITY	Dec. 3/87 % Difference from Toronto	Mar. 3/88 % Difference from Toronto	Jun. 3/88 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>Southern Ontario</u>			
Hamilton	-6.8	-7.7	-6.1
Kingston	-1.9	-1.6	-5.6
London	-3.7	-2.0	-4.1
Ottawa	-13.4	-13.9	-12.8
Owen Sound	-6.6	-5.2	-5.8
Peterborough	-1.4	-3.0	-2.3
Windsor	-7.4	-3.0	-4.7
<u>Northwestern Ontario</u>			
Atikokan	3.9	3.5	1.8
Dryden	1.2	1.9	0.1
Fort Frances	1.4	6.5	-0.8
Geraldton	-3.0	0.3	-1.7
Ignace	4.7	6.8	6.4
Kenora	-9.8	-9.9	-13.1
Marathon	5.8	4.7	3.1
Rainy River	3.4	1.7	0.2
Red Lake	3.0	5.7	1.4
Sioux Lookout	9.0	6.0	5.2
Thunder Bay	-4.4	-4.6	-6.6
<u>Northeastern Ontario</u>			
Blind River	-4.9	-4.4	-9.2
Chapleau	-3.2	-1.4	-2.5
Cochrane	-2.9	-0.9	-0.7
Elliot Lake	-10.4	-6.2	-7.0
Espanola	-8.0	-7.3	-6.6
Hearst	-2.1	-2.1	-2.4
Iroquois Falls	-12.3	-8.2	-11.6
Kapuskasing	-1.3	1.1	-3.3
Kirkland Lake	-12.3	-7.9	-6.2
Manitoulin Island	-0.8	2.3	-1.5
Moosonee	8.0	10.9	10.7
New Liskeard	-5.1	-4.8	-6.5
North Bay	-3.8	-2.6	-2.8
Sault Ste. Marie	-8.2	-5.9	-7.4
Sturgeon Falls	-4.8	-4.0	-3.5
Sudbury	-4.1	-4.5	-4.4
Timmins	-8.2	-8.4	-9.9
Wawa	-8.1	-7.1	-7.2

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

TABLE 2a: 3-Store Average* of Easily Comparable Food Items in 37 Ontario Communities, June, 1988

Community	Dollars											
	Butter 1 lb.	Milk 4L	Eggs 1 doz.	Dry Cereal 350 g.	Flour 3.5kg.	Coffee Instant 10 oz.	Canned Corn 7 oz.	Tomato Juice 48 oz.	Bananas 1 lb.	Sugar 2 kg.	Sirloin Steak 1 lb.	Whole Chicken 1 lb.
Toronto	2.89	3.22	1.48	1.95	5.79	7.90	.895	1.92	.69	1.89	5.59	2.02
<u>S. Ontario</u>												
Hamilton	1.81s	3.05s	.97s	1.92	5.25	7.27s	.89s	1.92	.65	.92s	5.00s	1.85
Kingston	2.47	2.60	1.27	1.82	4.39	7.90	1.16	1.69s	.69	1.19	4.95	2.02
London	2.35s	2.69	1.19	1.93	5.79	7.48s	.89s	1.92	.69	1.15s	5.05	2.05
Ottawa	2.62	2.72	1.09	1.72	4.89	6.24	.70	1.25s	.45	.85s	3.99s	1.35
Owen Sound	1.99	2.89	.99s	2.19	5.74	8.11	.77	1.59	.69	1.24	5.39	1.59s
Peterborough	2.79	2.92	1.29	1.82	5.59	7.90	.83s	1.65	.72	1.65	6.12	1.61
Windsor	2.29	2.65s	1.11s	1.91	5.12	7.90	.79	1.99	.62	1.65	5.55	1.99
<u>N.W. Ontario</u>												
Atikokan	2.70	5.02	1.49	1.69	5.26	8.74	.85	2.13	.79	1.59	5.29	.99s
Dryden	2.62	4.68	1.34	1.69	4.68s	8.74	.87	1.72	.67	1.62	5.12	1.93
Fort Frances	2.56s	4.50	1.26	1.94	4.47s	7.62	.82s	2.27	.39s	2.45	3.98s	1.72
Geraldton	2.84	4.01	1.64	1.58s	4.68s	8.74	.82	1.49	.74	1.74	4.14	1.60
Ignace	2.77	4.74	1.36	1.86	5.11	8.23	.92	1.97	.59s	1.69	5.16	1.19s
Kenora	2.26	4.55	.99	1.59	4.19s	6.24	.79	1.59	.52	1.49	4.76	1.59
Marathon	2.89	5.02	1.45	1.82	5.03	8.11	.95	2.03	.69	1.80s	5.49	1.39s
Rainy River	2.99	5.05	1.59	1.60	4.74	8.34	.90	2.19	.59	1.43	4.23	1.81
Red Lake	2.95	4.89	1.49	1.69	5.57	7.49s	.89	2.09	.77	1.59	5.34	1.79
Sioux Lookout	2.72s	4.79	1.45	1.72	4.83s	8.99	.91	1.82	.74	1.72	6.22	1.59s
Thunder Bay	2.82	3.69	1.35s	1.59	5.59	7.86	.85	1.59s	.79	2.05	4.62	1.39s
<u>N.E. Ontario</u>												
Blind River	2.29	3.19s	1.09s	.99s	5.75	6.24s	.87	1.59	.49	1.29s	3.29s	1.19s
Chapleau	2.82	4.99	1.50	2.00	5.89	9.16	.93	1.94	.59	1.84s	4.27	1.47
Cochrane	2.34	2.99	1.34	1.82	5.99	7.98	.90	1.84	.69	1.62	3.81	1.34
Elliot Lake	2.39	3.19	1.09	1.49	5.86	6.24	.84	1.92	.54	1.29	3.64	1.19s
Espanola	2.29	3.19	1.09	1.74	5.89	7.17s	.92	1.92	.49	1.29	4.13	1.49s
Hearst	2.67	4.29	1.48	1.64	5.92	8.11	.86	1.79	.69s	1.99	5.79	1.39s
Iroquois Falls	2.29	3.09	1.09	1.58	5.77	8.83	.82	1.94	.57	1.29	3.64	.99s
Kapuskasing	2.61	4.45	1.47	1.89	5.99	3.47s	.91	1.59	.66	1.14s	4.29s	2.04
Kirkland Lake	2.29	2.95s	1.19	1.76	5.98	7.79	.82s	1.52s	.69	1.29	4.84	1.74
Manitoulin Island	2.76	4.89	1.56	1.94	6.19	8.11	.97	1.52	.69	1.95	4.99	1.39s
Moosonee	2.74	5.55	1.69	1.42s	4.72s	10.63	.63	2.02	.79s	1.96	4.11s	1.99
New Liskeard	2.29	3.09	1.09	1.74	5.99	7.17	.89	1.89	.49	1.29s	4.49s	1.74
North Bay	2.49	3.19	1.09	1.89	5.82	7.90	.95	1.72s	.52	1.32s	5.65	2.09
Sault St. Marie	2.29	3.19	1.09	1.59s	4.86s	7.44s	.89	1.79	.69	1.09s	4.75	1.69
Sturgeon Falls	2.59	3.39	1.24	1.49s	5.74	8.11	.92	1.89	.74	1.49s	5.54	1.54
Sudbury	2.39	2.99	1.22	1.88	4.79s	7.69	.83	1.95	.62	1.22s	5.15	1.49
Timmins	2.29	2.92	1.09	1.55s	5.90	6.86s	.87	1.65	.62	1.29	4.59s	1.42
Wawa	2.29	4.14	1.09	1.44s	5.45	7.17	.84s	1.90	.54	1.29	4.19	1.29

* NOTE: Specials are included in all locations

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM
PREVIOUS QUARTER FOR ALL CENTRES

During the quarter, March to June 1988, the total price of the 72 items monitored declined in eight of the 37 Ontario communities surveyed. Decreases ranged from 1.3 percent in Kenora to 4.7 percent in Fort Francis. Increases in the other communities ranged from 0.1 percent in Thunder Bay to 4.3 percent in Kirkland Lake.

Some categories such as groceries, oils and fats, pork and poultry registered price declines in many communities, mainly due to promotional activities during the June monitoring.

However, communities such as Windsor and Red Lake showed significant increases in the poultry category due to lifting of March specials.

Significant increases in the beef category in Sioux Lookout and Hearst, the Pork category in Ottawa and Moosonee as well as the Lamb category in Hamilton, Ignace, Kenora and Moosonee, were also mainly due to the return to regular prices from March specials.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are shown in Table 3. Table 3a gives the price movement of the 72 items by category for all centres for the period March to June 1988.

Table 3

Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres

	Sept 3/87 Dec. 3/87 % Difference	Dec. 3/87 Mar. 3/88 % Difference	Mar. 3/88 Jun. 3/88 % Difference
Toronto	-0.8	-1.4	2.3
<u>Southern Ontario</u>			
Hamilton	-3.7	-2.4	4.1
Kingston	-3.3	-1.1	-1.8
London	-2.6	0.4	0.1
Ottawa	-2.2	-3.3	3.6
Owen Sound	-4.8	0.0	0.4
Peterborough	-1.9	-3.1	3.1
Windsor	-4.7	3.3	0.4
<u>Northwestern Ontario</u>			
Atikokan	1.2	-1.8	0.7
Dryden	-1.9	-0.8	0.6
Fort Frances	0.1	3.5	-4.7
Geraldton	-3.3	0.1	0.2
Ignace	-1.7	0.6	2.0
Kenora	-3.8	-1.5	-1.3
Marathon	-1.2	-2.4	0.7
Rainy River	1.8	-2.2	0.8
Red Lake	-2.1	1.2	-1.8
Sioux Lookout	0.7	-4.1	1.6
Thunder Bay	-0.3	-1.5	0.1
<u>Northeastern Ontario</u>			
Blind River	-0.3	-0.9	-2.9
Chapleau	-2.0	0.4	1.2
Cochrane	-2.5	0.6	2.5
Elliot Lake	-5.0	3.2	1.5
Espanola	-4.5	-0.6	3.1
Hearst	2.3	-1.4	2.0
Iroquois Falls	-6.7	3.3	-1.4
Kapuskasing	*	1.0	-2.1
Kirkland Lake	-5.0	3.6	4.3
Manitoulin Island	-2.4	1.7	-1.5
Moosonee	-0.8	1.3	2.0
New Liskeard	-3.1	-1.1	0.5
North Bay	-2.0	-0.2	2.2
Sault Ste. Marie	-4.2	1.1	0.7
Sturgeon Falls	-2.5	-0.1	2.4
Sudbury	-1.9	-1.7	2.4
Timmins	-2.8	-1.6	0.6
Wawa	-1.0	-0.3	2.2

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of
Consumer and Commercial Relations

Note: Data for Kapuskasing not computed due to technical problems in Sept.

E 3a: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, March to June 1988 (Percentage Change)

Canned Goods, March to June 1968 (Percentage Change)																	
	% Change	Dairy		Cereals		Fruits		Fresh Dry		Oils	Jams	Other	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
		Eggs	Bread	Bever-	Veg.&	Fruit	Groc-	Fats	Syrups	eries	Groc-						
nto	2.3	3.8	3.1	11.6	8.1	8.8	-2.9	-0.8	-2.9	-0.4	-1.6	0.0	1.1	21.2	9.3	-0.6	4.9
ntario																	
lton	4.1	8.1	2.4	-1.0	8.2	10.5	1.2	-3.3	7.4	4.2	1.1	21.2	9.3	-0.6	4.9		
lston	-1.8	-4.4	-4.8	-0.8	-2.3	-0.9	-15.7	-0.8	-3.4	-5.9	10.6	1.2	13.7	-15.0	6.9		
non	0.1	-1.7	2.7	-1.6	6.2	5.9	-7.9	-1.6	-2.9	-2.3	2.6	-2.7	7.3	-14.9	1.3		
wa	3.6	4.2	-1.6	-1.3	0.5	-1.0	5.2	2.3	9.0	-2.0	4.7	2.3	24.4	2.0	11.5		
e Sound	0.4	8.6	4.7	2.5	4.0	6.5	1.9	-3.7	-12.3	0.7	12.2	7.0	-21.5	-18.4	-5.3		
rborough	3.1	5.4	1.3	3.4	1.3	4.8	-0.6	-0.2	-0.2	-3.2	10.3	-1.1	7.0	3.8	7.5		
nsor	0.4	-5.0	-7.7	2.2	3.5	12.0	-1.7	4.4	-3.6	-6.2	-5.9	4.6	4.4	41.5	3.7		
U Ontario																	
okan	0.7	-4.0	2.9	5.4	16.2	2.1	8.7	5.4	2.5	-1.0	4.2	0.0	-22.0	-17.6	-9.1		
en	0.6	2.9	-4.5	-8.7	9.7	4.6	0.4	-1.6	-1.5	0.6	-4.3	4.6	11.4	6.4	3.2		
Frances	-4.7	-3.1	2.7	-1.7	11.3	-11.6	0.2	-0.7	-32.1	-6.5	-17.0	-0.4	-10.2	-1.2	-11.2		
idton	0.2	1.8	-7.6	-2.7	1.9	5.6	11.4	6.8	1.2	-1.8	-2.6	-6.3	-1.5	-4.0	-2.6		
ie	2.0	1.7	4.0	-3.0	1.0	14.8	6.0	-0.2	0.0	-0.4	1.9	22.4	0.1	-16.0	0.1		
ara	-1.3	6.3	-6.7	-1.4	1.5	4.7	-8.3	-0.1	-5.4	-2.3	-4.3	39.9	-8.7	9.1	-1.4		
rhon	0.7	-0.6	-4.1	0.6	1.3	14.5	7.7	1.0	3.3	-4.6	9.1	0.0	-7.8	-20.4	-2.2		
y River	0.8	5.2	2.7	1.2	1.8	6.4	2.4	2.1	0.9	0.1	-4.4	0.0	-8.4	-3.2	-5.3		
ake	-1.8	5.7	-0.5	-25.5	-2.8	-11.2	10.9	-4.8	-0.1	2.4	9.3	0.0	-9.7	26.5	4.1		
u Lookout	1.6	0.6	-2.9	3.7	1.3	5.0	7.1	-1.5	3.5	2.9	15.5	0.0	-11.0	-12.1	0.1		
er Bay	0.1	4.9	0.2	-4.5	-3.4	0.6	4.3	0.4	-1.0	-3.9	-3.3	8.7	3.9	5.9	1.1		
Ontario																	
r River	-2.9	-7.2	2.6	-12.5	-6.3	18.0	-8.2	-10.1	-2.5	9.1	-6.4	0.0	-0.8	0.0	-2.8		
beau	1.2	3.6	8.6	4.8	-1.1	-1.7	2.1	-0.4	0.0	2.6	-4.8	23.7	-10.9	3.1	-3.9		
ane	2.5	0.2	7.3	5.5	3.2	0.4	3.1	2.8	0.0	0.7	1.6	0.0	2.2	-1.2	1.4		
it Lake	1.5	1.5	3.3	-8.5	4.6	1.6	15.8	-3.1	0.7	4.8	0.5	0.0	-1.9	8.3	0.4		
ola	3.1	5.4	4.8	4.4	3.4	13.1	-6.7	1.1	0.6	2.2	7.2	6.7	0.5	-5.8	2.4		
rt	2.0	-5.9	7.2	2.1	4.3	5.1	-0.5	-0.8	-15.8	-0.7	16.5	0.0	3.9	-4.6	8.3		
ois Falls	-1.4	-0.7	1.3	-5.5	-2.5	14.9	-10.1	0.6	-1.6	0.7	1.5	0.0	-9.5	5.9	-2.7		
ukasing	-2.1	2.6	3.9	-19.8	-8.0	4.4	-1.8	1.2	-2.9	-1.5	-6.4	-8.0	10.1	5.5	0.8		
and Lake	4.3	6.4	1.1	6.2	0.1	6.5	-1.8	11.3	-3.7	4.7	10.8	-12.9	7.7	3.5	6.7		
oulain Island	-1.5	3.8	-1.6	-8.4	-5.9	-8.3	7.4	-0.4	1.0	-0.6	4.8	-16.5	-2.3	-4.2	-0.6		
nee	2.0	-2.9	-3.5	4.0	-0.5	3.2	6.6	3.3	0.0	-2.9	-2.5	19.4	18.9	-1.5	6.6		
iskeard	0.5	1.3	7.7	-2.3	-1.6	1.2	-3.1	0.9	-4.5	0.2	3.9	4.0	6.5	-16.2	1.6		
t Bay	2.2	6.9	3.6	-3.9	-0.8	9.4	-0.4	2.0	1.8	3.2	3.0	0.0	0.7	4.8	2.3		
l St. Marie	0.7	2.0	-1.6	-5.8	4.7	5.2	-2.7	1.4	0.9	5.9	0.4	14.9	4.5	-12.3	0.9		
reon Falls	2.4	9.2	-1.6	2.2	4.9	6.7	-4.7	-5.9	1.2	8.0	1.7	-3.9	12.1	-13.5	3.0		
ry	2.4	1.9	0.9	-1.4	0.9	10.3	2.0	1.1	-1.0	0.3	12.1	17.4	2.6	-14.5	5.0		
ms	0.6	-2.5	3.2	-2.8	0.8	2.2	1.2	1.4	5.6	-1.0	5.3	9.9	-1.8	-7.2	1.4		
a	2.2	-4.3	6.5	5.2	-2.0	16.9	-2.1	8.6	2.0	-6.9	3.3	-2.0	6.2	-4.6	3.0		

Specials are included for all locations.

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 Ontario communities were monitored. In August, 1981, Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, 9th floor, 555 Yonge St. Toronto, Ontario M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings included many staples and closely related to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. during the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 percent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres in Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 55 percent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices

monitored in three stores where possible. In some small communities only two stores could be monitored. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability are often encountered in some of the more remote and smaller communities, appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size. Staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

- . Dairy and Eggs;
- . Cereals and Bread
- . Canned Fruits and Vegetables (including canned juices)
- . Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
- . Dry Groceries
- . Oils and Fats
- . Jams and Syrups;
- . Other Groceries; and
- . Meats (including beef, frozen lamb, pork & poultry).

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. Other calculations included a comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres as well as percentage changes in prices from previous month for all centres.



3 1761 11467939 2